Alabama.

Lynchings- 1934
Cases of.

4062

Authorities Press Probe Of Slaying Of Birmingham Negro By Posse

advertiser 8-25-34

BIRMINGHAM, ALA., Aug. 24.—(AP)—Shot down in a battle with enraged citizens seeking his arrest, a negro accused by three white girls of trying to abduct them, remained unidentified in a hospital morgue here tonight.

Meanwhile, officials continued their investigation into the slaying by a posse of 25 men called from a religious tent meeting when one of the girls broke away during a struggle and sounded an alarm.

Montgomery, Ala.

The three girls told police the negro accosted them in an East Birmingham park, leveling a revolver at them and commanding the trio to follow him.

As she threw up her hands, Edith Tidwell, 24, oldest of the three, knocked the negro's gun upward and fled toward the meeting. The others, Grace Tabor, 23, and Lorena Tidwell, 19-year-old sister of Edith, were thrown to the ground by the negro, they said, and began a struggle with him for possession of the gun.

Approaching men, summoned by Edith Tidwell, frightened the alleged accoster away. He fired several shots as he ran, however. The alarm spread rapidly, and neighbors soon surrounded the park.

The negro was hemmed in a garden and one of the possemen fired, the bullet striking him in the right side of the head. He died at Hillman Hospital a short time later, but was positively identified by all three girls, police said, as their accoster.

Officers consider it miraculous that none of the possemen was hurt, as from 15 to 25 shots were fired as the negro darted behind clumps of bushes in the park before he was cornered in the garden.

Edith Tidwell said she asked the negro:

"What are you going to do?" To which he answered, cursing:

"Follow me, you'll soon find out what I'm going to do."

Birmingham Posse Kills Negro Accoster Of Girl

advertiser 8-24-34

BIRMINGHAM, ALA., Aug. 23.—(AP)—A negro who accosted three white girls en route to church services was shot to death by a hastily formed posse of armed citizens of the neighborhood tonight.

Montgomery, Ala.

Police said the negro, armed with a pistol, accosted the girls as they passed through a dimly lighted park on their way to a church a few blocks away. The negro had not been identified tonight.

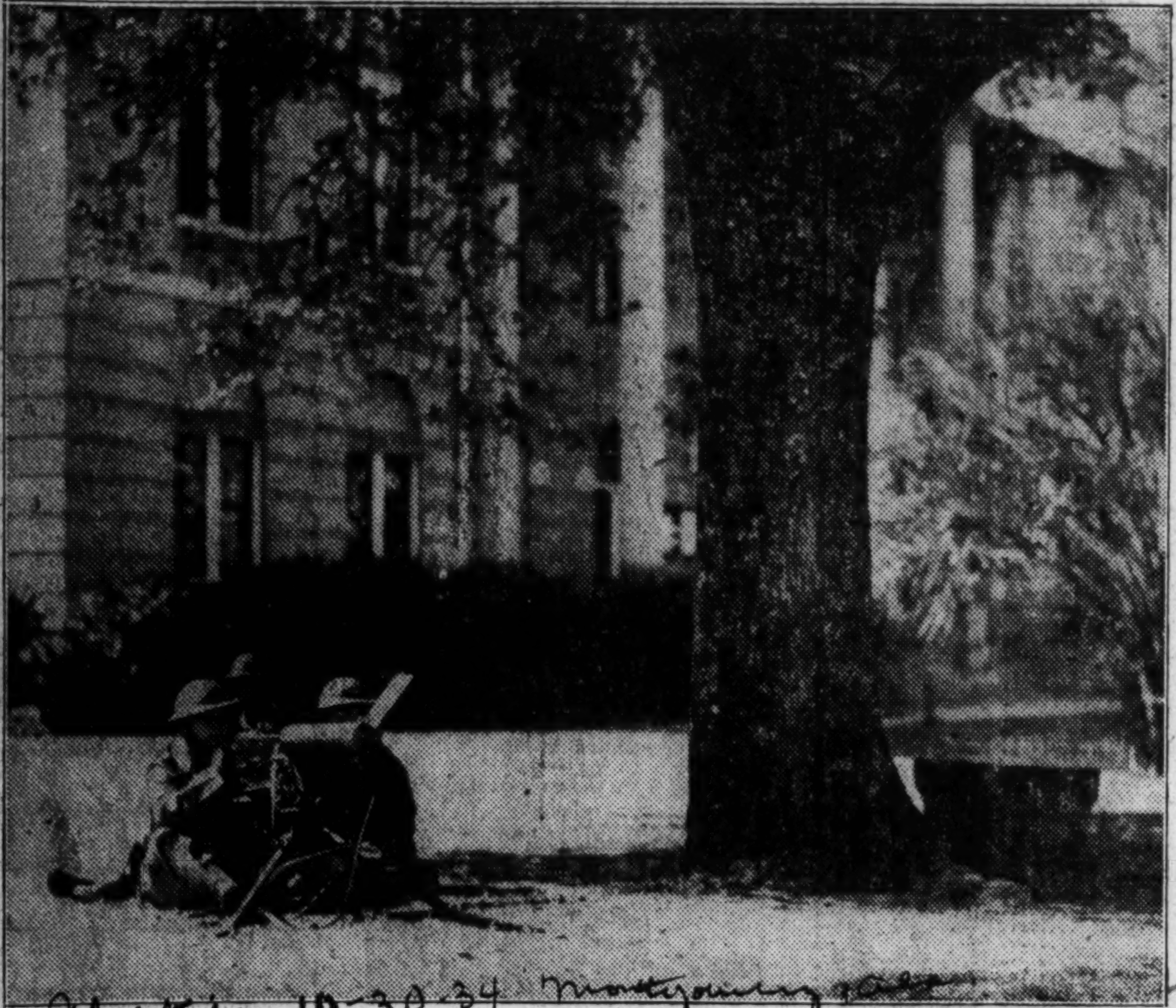
Police said the negro sought to attack the girls.

Lynchings - 1934
6
Cases of

Florida.

4063

Troops Quiet Florida Town After Lynching



Advertiser 10-30-34 Montgomery, Ala.

After a weekend of mob hysteria during which a negro was lynched and threats were made against another negro and a white man, national guardsmen quieted Marianna, Fla., by setting up machine guns upon the courthouse lawn and around the jail. Here a machine gun squad is shown at the courthouse, Sunday, the gun having been set up under the tree in which the body of Claude Neal, negro, was hung after he had been lynched. Neal's body was left hanging just over the stone bench at the right.—(Associated Press Photo).

MACHINE GUN SQUAD CALMS FLORIDA MOB

Telegraph

Investigation of Well-Advertised Mob Murder Is Begun by Authorities

10-28-34

FEDERAL ACTION IS URGED

Macon, Ga.

Governor and Sheriff Are Denounced For Failure to Act After Many Warnings

MARIANNA, Fla., Oct. 27 (AP)—The bristling muzzles of national guard machine guns mounted on the courthouse square embraced quiet here tonight after 24 hours of mob spirit in which one Negro was lynched for attacking and killing a white girl and another was threatened for striking a white man.

Machine guns, mounted and manned, looked out from each corner of the square. Nearby were rifles of 120 national guardsmen ordered here from Tallahassee and Panama City by Governor Dave Sholtz to aid civil authorities in protecting Bud Gammon, a Negro charged with striking Walter Cook, white man, with a bottle.

Before the guardsmen arrived, a mob of about 200 to 300 persons which had stormed the courthouse in an unsuccessful attempt to get Gammon drifted away. Small groups appeared at times in the Negro residential setion, but there was no violence reported.

Associate Justice Rivers Buford of the state supreme court at Tallahassee, who was a visitor here today, was credited by many with quieting the mob. He spoke from the courthouse steps after one group had approached the door.

Investigation Is Begun

With the town quiet again, the mutilated body of the Negro lynched last night by the irate mob was held by officers while investigations of the lynching were started upon orders from Governor Sholtz.

Governor Sholtz first called the troops for Marianna service to make an investigation into last night's lynching, but speeded their departure on learning of the threatened fresh outbreak.

In the meantime, organizations working for closed racial relations appealed to President Roosevelt and Attorney General Cummins to use federal agencies to capture the members of the mob.

No Hope for State Action

In Atlanta, the Commission on Interracial Cooperation, an organization of whites and Negroes working for racial harmony, addressed a telegram to President Roosevelt which said the lynching involved interstate kidnaping and "you are implored to use federal agencies to the limit in apprehension and punishment of the kidnaper-murderers."

The Negro, Claude Neal, charged with attacking and slaying a white woman, was taken from the Brewton, Ala., jail and brought across the Florida line to Greenwood where he was killed.

"Florida's forty lynchings in the last twelve years," said the message of the commission, signed by W. W. Alexander as executive director, "without a single conviction indicates there is no hope of action from authorities of that state. * * *

"Circumstances in this case are peculiarly shocking. The lynching was advertised hours in advance, bringing together thousands of men, women and children eager to witness the spectacle. The lynching itself was reported marked by unspeakable torture and mutilation. Local officials apparently were indifferent throughout."

No Arrests Are Made

The telegram to Attorney General Cummings was signed by Jessie Daniel Ames, executive director of the Association of Southern Women for the Prevention of Lynching and said the "victim of the lynching in Florida was kidnaped from Alabama.

"We believe the federal government through the department of justice can intervene and investigate the situation under the federal kidnaping law. Southern women committed against lynching for any crime request your department to aid in this work by bringing its power to bear in tracing down the perpetrators of this abduction."

The mutilated body of the Negro was held by Jackson county officers today.

No person suspected of being a member of the mob was arrested.

The International Labor Defense in New York sent telegrams to President Roosevelt and to Governor Sholtz and Governor B. M. Miller, of Alabama, condemning the lynching. Punishment of all citizens implicated was demanded.

"State forces have refused to protect the life of this American citizen," the message to President Roosevelt said. It also charged the Florida governor was "implicated through refusal to take action in the face of the complicity of Sheriff Chambliss in the lynching."

Governor Sholtz described the case as "not only deplorable but so absolutely unnecessary." He answered claims he had not called out national guardsmen with a statement that "under existing circumstances it would have been futile to call out the militia." He also said Jackson county officers did not request outside assistance and had assured him they could adequately handle the situation.

Crowds which gathered as messengers spread word "all white folks" were invited to come and see the lynching at the Cannidy home dwindled away during the night when the mob did not appear.

Suddenly, at dawn today, a crowd swung the Negro's body, mutilated with knives and pierced by bullets.

Girl's Father Disappointed

Sheriff Chambliss removed the body after [illegible]. He said he would hold it pending a coroner's inquest. He declined immediately to discuss the crime except to say he was "investigating."

Telegraph
10-28-34
Macon, Ga.

The father of the slain girl, said at his home the mob "done me wrong" because he did not get the first shot at the Negro.

"They done me wrong about the killing," the 60-year-old father declared. "They promised me they would bring him up to my house before they killed him and let me have the first shot. That's what I wanted."

From Tallahassee Governor Sholtz called upon State's Attorney John H. Carter, Jr., of Marianna, to make a "thorough and searching investigation" of the lynching and report promptly. He also asked Sheriff Chambliss for a complete report.

Deputy's Slayer Threatened

CHIPLEY, Fla., Oct. 27 (AP)—Buford Mears, held for the slaying of Deputy Sheriff Dave Hamm of Marianna, was transferred to an unannounced jail tonight for safekeeping as rumors spread here that an attempt might be made to lynch him.

Hamm, a Jackson county (Marianna) deputy sheriff, died in a hospital here today of wounds received when Mears whipped out a pistol and began shooting as he was being taken to jail after being convicted of bank robbery.

Harrison McKinney, tried and convicted with Mears and M. F. Dudley, for holding up the Bank of Malone, was wounded fatally by Deputy Sheriff Hamm as the officer returned Mears' fire. McKinney died today at Marianna.

Reports of high feeling against Mears were received by officers here from sources which they did not announce.

Machine Guns Cool Mob Spirit In Florida Town

Advertiser

Second Lynching Averted When High Court Justice Pleads With Big Crowd

10-28-34

Troops On Guard

Montgomery Ala.

'Interracial' Organizations Get Busy Over Wires; Roosevelt Asked To Act

MARIANNA, FLA., Oct. 27.—(AP)—National Guard machine guns mounted on the courthouse square brought enforced calm to this town tonight after 24 hours of mob spirit during which one negro was lynched for attacking and killing a white girl and another was threatened for striking a white man.

The machine guns pointed out from each corner of the square. Nearby were rifles of 120 National Guardsmen ordered here from Tallahassee and Panama City by Gov. Dave Sholtz to aid civil authorities in protecting Bud Gammon, a negro charged with striking Walter Cook, white man, with a bottle.

Before the guardsmen arrived, a mob of about 200 to 300 persons which had stormed the courthouse in an unsuccessful attempt to get Gammon drifted away. Small groups appeared at times in the negro residential section, but no violence was reported.

Associate Justice Rivers Buford of the State Supreme Court at Tallahassee, who was a visitor here today, was credited by many with quieting the mob. He spoke from the courthouse steps after one group had approached the door.

Deputy Held Prisoner

Earlier Deputy Sheriff J. C. Cooper had informed the Governor's office in Tallahassee that he was a virtual prisoner inside the jail while Sheriff W. F. Chambliss was outside trying to hold off the mob.

With the town quiet again, the mutilated body of the negro lynched last night near Greenwood, 11 miles north of here, was held by officers, who had cut it down from a tree near the courthouse here where the mob strung it up after the lynching. Several investigations were underway upon orders from Gov. Sholtz.

In the meantime organizations working for closer racial relations appealed to President Roosevelt and Atty. Gen. Cummings to use Federal agencies to capture the members of the mob.

In Atlanta the Commission on Interracial Cooperation, an organization of whites and negroes working for racial harmony, addressed a telegram to President Roosevelt which said the lynching involved interstate kidnaping and "you are implored to use Federal agencies to the limit in apprehension and punishment of the kidnaper-murderers."

Charged With Attack

The negro, Claude Neal, charged with attacking and slaying a white woman was taken from the Brewton, Ala., jail and brought across the Florida line to Greenwood where he was killed.

"Florida's 40 lynchings in the last 12 years," said the message to the President signed by W. W. Alexander, executive director, "without a single conviction indicate there is no hope of action from authorities of that State. ......

"Circumstances in this case are peculiarly shocking. The lynching was advertised hours in advance, bringing together thousands of men, women and children eager to witness the spectacle. The lynching itself was reported marked by unspeakable torture and mutilation. Local officials apparently were indifferent throughout."

The telegram to Atty. Gen. Cummings was signed by Jessie Daniel Ames, executive director of the Association of Southern Women for the Prevention of Lynching, and said the "victim of the lynching in Florida was kidnaped from Alabama."

"We believe the Federal Government through the Department of Justice can intervene and investigate the situation under the Federal kidnaping law. Southern women committed against lynching for any crime request your department aid in this work by bringing its power to bear in tracing down the perpetrators of this abduction."

Body Held By Officers

The mutilated body of the negro was held by Jackson County officers today.

Part of the Nebraska delegation to the American Legion convention at Miami stopped over during early last night as word of the lynching reached up and down the highways but their patience was not equal to that of the natives and after a fruitless wait of three to four hours they drove on their way.

No person suspected of being a member of the mob was arrested.

The International Labor Defense in New York sent telegrams to President Roosevelt and to Gov. Sholtz and Gov. Miller, of Alabama, condemning the lynching. Punishment of all citizens implicated was demanded.

"State forces have refused to protect the life of this American citizen," the message to President Roosevelt said. It also charged the Florida Governor was "implicated through refusal to take action in the face of the complicity of Sheriff Chambliss in the lynching."

Gov. Sholtz described the case as "not only deplorable but so absolutely unnecessary." He answered charges he had not called out National Guardsmen last night with a statement that "under existing circumstances it would have been futile to call out the militia." He also said Jackson County officers did not request outside assistance and had assured him they could handle the situation.

Lynching Ballyhooed

The mob, obtaining custody of Neal yesterday publicly announced he would be lynched at the scene where he attacked and killed 23-year-old Lola Cannidy, a farm girl, last week.

Messengers spread word "all white folks" were invited to see the lynching but for hours the mob did not appear.

Suddenly, at dawn today, a crowd swung the negro's body, mutilated with knives and pierced by bullets, from the limb of a tree in front of the county courthouse.

Sheriff Chambliss removed the body after a short time.

George Cannidy, father of the slain girl, said at his home the mob "done me wrong" because he did not get the first shot at the negro.

"They done me wrong about the killing," the 60-year-old father declared. "They promised me they would bring him up to my house before they killed him and let me have the first shot. That's what I wanted."

TROOPS MOBILIZED AFTER LYNCHING

Constitution 10-28-34

Outbreak Threatened as Negro Attacks White Man After Killing.

Atlanta, Ga.

MARIANNA, Fla., Oct. 27.—(AP) National guard troops were rushed here late today by Governor Dave Sholtz to prevent a mob from storming the county jail in search of an unidentified prisoner—a negro who engaged in a fight with a white man.

It was the second time in two days that Marianna had been aroused by mobs. Last night a negro was lynched near Greenwood, 11 miles north of here, for the ravishing and murder of a white woman. The body of the lynched negro was strung on a tree here after he was shot and mutilated.

Negroes were warned to leave the streets following the rescue of the negro, who fought with the white man.

Deputy Sheriff J. C. Cooper said in a telephone call to the governor's office at Tallahassee that he was a virtual prisoner inside the jail while Sheriff W. F. Chambliss was outside trying to hold off the mob.

State's Attorney John Carter and Mayor John Burton, of Marianna, joined the sheriff in asking for the troops as unruly citizens began to assemble following the fight.

Adjutant General Vivian B. Collins, of St. Augustine, immediately dispatched a plane for Marianna which is in northwest Florida. The plane was loaded with tear gas. The guardsmen were from Tallahacsce, 75 miles from here.

Troops' Departure Speeded.

Governor Sholtz first called the troops for Marianna service to make an investigation into last night's lynching, but speeded their departure on learning of the threatened fresh outbreak.

In the meantime, organizations working for closer racial relations appealed to President Roosevelt and Attorney-General Cummings to use federal agencies to capture the members of the mob.

In Atlanta, the commission on interracial co-operation, an organization of whites and negroes working for racial harmony addressed a telegram to President Roosevelt which said the lynching involved interstate kidnaping and "you are implored to use federal agencies to the limit in apprehension, and punishment of the kidnaper-murderers."

Negro Seized in Alabama.

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"Florida's 40 lynchings in the last 12 years," said the message of the commission, signed by W. W. Alexander as executive director, "without a single conviction indicates there is no hope of action from authorities of that state.

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Neal was lynched last night after a mob took him from a Brewton (Ala.) jail where he was taken across the state line for safekeeping as officers who had him in custody were pursued by angry crowds. The mob, obtaining custody of Neal, publicly announced he would be lynched at the scene where he attacked and killed 23-year-old Lola Cannidy, a farm girl, last week.

Crowds which gathered as messengers spread word "all white folks" were invited to come and see the lynching at the Cannidy home dwindled away during the night when the mob did not appear.

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Sheriff W. F. Chambliss removed the body after a short time. He said he would hold it pending a coroner's inquest. He declined immediately to discuss the crime except to say he was "investigating."

Lynchings - 1934
Cases of.

Florida

4064

NEGRO IS LYNCHED BY MOB IN TAMPA

Atlanta Constitution

2-4-34

Sholtz Promises Atlantan Thorough Probe Will Be Instituted.

Atlanta, Ga -

TAMPA, Fla., Jan. 30.—(AP)—Hillsborough county authorities, ordered to act by Governor Dave Sholtz, said today's lynching of a negro here by a group of unmasked men will be "thoroughly investigated" tomorrow by the county grand jury as well as by a coroner's jury.

Robert Johnson, negro, was shot five times and killed early today. Deputy Constable T. M. Graves said the mob took the negro from him as he was transferring the man from the city jail to the county jail between 2:30 and 3:15 a. m. He said he was forced to accompany the lynchers while they took the negro to a wooded section on the outskirts of the city.

Johnson, arrested Sunday for an alleged attempt at a criminal attack on a young white woman, also was charged in two warrants with petty theft in connection with stealing chickens. Officers said the young woman had identified clothing worn by Johnson as the same as that worn by her attacker, but the criminal assault case still was under investigation. They said Johnson was being transferred from one jail to another.

ATLANTAN IS PROMISED THOROUGH-GOING PROBE

Governor Dave Sholtz, of Florida, wired the Association of Southern Women for Prevention of Lynching in Atlanta, Tuesday, an assurance that every effort would be made to arrest and punish this responsible for a lynching in Tampa.

The telegram, addressed to Mrs. Jessie Daniel Ames, executive director of the association, was in reply to one the organization had dispatched urging decisive action in the case. The governor's reply read:

"The deplorable lynching which took place in Tampa early this morning came out of a clear sky without prior warning or knowledge of this office that it was anticipated. So there was no occasion or opportunity to prevent it by the use of troops. I have directed both the sheriff and the state's attorney to make a speedy and complete investigation to the end that justice may be meted out to these murderers in accordance with the laws of the state and I will use every power at my command to the end that the perpetrators of this crime are punished and to prevent further lynching in Florida."

The telegram sent the governor by the women's group earlier Tuesday had pointed out that the Florida chief executive only last Thursday told a committee there would be no lynchings if he had "two hours to get troops to the scene of the disturbance" and that he would use his power to the utmost to punish lynchers.

The telegram follows:

"Last Thursday you assured a committee headed by Mrs. William Cornell, of Jacksonville, chairman of the Florida council for the prevention of lynching, that while you are governor of Florida, there would be no lynchings if you had two hours to get troops to the scene of the disturbance and that the law gave you sufficient power to apprehend and punish lynchers which you would use to the utmost should a lynching occur in Florida during your administration. You, by your own words, have the power by law to show the country what one determined chief executive of the state can do to uphold the dignity of the law under all conditions.

"At 3 o'clock this morning, there was a lynching in Tampa."

Assault Suspect Is Lynched By Mob

Advertiser

2-4-34

TAMPA, FLA., Jan. 30.—(AP)—Hillsborough County authorities, ordered to act by Governor Dave Sholtz, said today's lynching of a negro here by a group of unmasked men will be "thoroughly investigated" tomorrow by the County Grand Jury as well as by a Coroner's Jury.

Montgomery Ala.

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Johnson, arrested Sunday for an alleged criminal attack on a young white woman, also was charged in two warrants with petty theft in connection with stealing chickens. Officers said the young woman had identified clothing worn by Johnson as the same as that worn by her attacker but that the criminal assault case still was under investigation. They said Johnson was being transferred from one jail to another on the larceny charges.

FLA. LYNCHES RAPE SUSPECT

[illegible]

2-4-34

TAMPA, Fla.—Governor Scholtz has ordered a sweeping investigation into the lynching of Robert Johnson, who was shot down by a mob while being transferred from the city jail to the state authorities here at 3:15 a.m., Tuesday.

[illegible]

Deputy Sheriff T. M. Graves, white, said that he was kidnaped and beaten by the mob who commandeered his auto and drove for two hours from Hillsborough County.

The man was accused of assaulting a white woman. He was being held for an "investigation."

CROWD WAITS FOR AVENGERS AT PLACE SET

Telegraph

Governor Authorizes Use of Troops if Necessary to Prevent Lynching

10-27-34

DEATH AT STAKE PLANNED

Macon, Ga.

Prisoner Is Alleged to Have Confessed That He Killed White Woman

By WILLIAM I. TRUBY
(Copyright, 1934, by A. P.)

GREENWOOD, Fla., Oct. 26 (AP)—A crowd of several thousand persons, gathered to see the lynching of Claude Neal, Negro, slowly dwindled away tonight to a thousand of the determined who remained to witness the death of the man accused of attacking and slaying a 22-year-old white woman.

The crowd began gathering at noon when word spread that a mob had entered the Brewton, Ala., jail and would bring Neal back to the scene of the crime and kill him.

The lynching was scheduled for between 8 p. m. and 9 p. m., Central time, but when the crowd grew to unexpected size a "committee of six" appeared and said they feared disorder and Neal would not be killed until the crowd grew smaller.

The "committee" told newspaper men that they had Neal "down in the woods" a short distance away and as soon as they believed it safe he would be brought out and killed. They said they feared shooting, there were numerous armed men in the crowd, and wanted to wait until it was safe.

Committee Tells Plans

After the Negro was killed, the committee announced, the body would be taken to Marianna, the county seat nine miles away, and there hung in the court house square for all to see.

Natives of the county in the crowd when questioned said they recognized no officers and none could be found. The governor of the state had offered to call out troops if needed but the Jackson county sheriff said he felt he was capable of handling the situation.

The crowd first gathered in front of the farm home of the father of the slain girl, in response to messengers who had said "there will be a lynching." It was made up of men women, children and babes in arm.

It was good humored and orderly for the most part, patiently awaiting developments.

Man Makes Funny Speech

A man identified himself as a Florida legislator made a humorous address and promised action but urged his audience to be quiet.

The family, father, mother, eight children and aunts and uncles came from the house and stood before the crowd.

A member of the lynching committee said the Negro first would be brought to the home and the family allowed to do with him as they pleased, then he would be taken to the pig-pen a half mile away in the middle of a cotton field where the girl was killed and there Neal would be slain.

At the house were sharp pointed sticks and numerous knives.

Bonfires near the pig-pen attracted the crowd shortly after dark and it moved into the cotton field but near midnight started breaking up and a mile-long line of automobiles slowly moved toward Marianna.

From Arcadia, where he was stopping tonight, Governor Dave Sholtz authorized calling out of the national guard if Jackson county authorities thought troops were necessary to prevent the slaying of the Negro.

"All White Folks" Invited

J. P. Newell, executive secretary to the governor, said earlier that Sheriff W. F. Chambliss told him he believed he was capable of taking care of any situation that might arise. Newell was again trying to reach the sheriff with the governor's offer of troops.

Telegraph

Meanwhile, hundreds of visitors were reported heading toward Greenwood after the mob had issued an invitation for "all white folks" to attend the slaying.

Earlier a telephone call to the sheriff in an adjoining county had informed him the Negro would be tied to a stake and the father of the slain girl given the opportunity to shoot him to death.

10-27-34

Sheriff Chambliss said he had sworn in special officers and believed he could handle the situation but another officer said if the mob was determined to kill the Negro he knew of "no way to prevent it."

Macon, Ga.

He said his office had heard of several places where the scheduled lynching might take place and that a force of 32 deputies and a dozen special officers were prepared to try to stop the lynching.

Appeals Sent to Governor

The head of the Florida council for the Association of Southern Women for the Prevention of Lynching and the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People, said they had sent telegrams to the governor urging the use of troops to prevent the mob from carrying out its scheduled lynching.

The Times-Courier, Marianna newspaper, said it had been informed the Negro would be taken to the scene of the crime and burned at the stake and quoted an officer as saying in his opinion the mob would not be bothered either before or after the lynching.

At Tallahassee, J. P. Newell executive secretary to Governor Dave Sholtz, said the governor was out of the capital. Newell said he was trying to obtain information from Jackson county officers but that he had not received a telegram from the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People asking that troops be sent to the scene.

Invitations Are Issued

The Dothan, Ala., Eagle, published 40 miles north of here, said it had been told the mob was holding the Negro four miles from the scene of the attack and that a brother of the girl had been informed the lynching would occur "as soon as it gets dark." The mob, The Eagle said, had invited "all white folks to attend the slaying."

Greenwood has a population of about 400 persons and is nine miles north of Marianna.

The father of the slain girl is an aged farmer.

Neal was taken from the Brewton jail where he had been held for safekeeping early today by a mob estimated at 100 men. Sheriff G. S. Byrne said the mob, which appeared in Brewton in automobiles carrying Florida license plates, covered an officer at the jail with a pistol and demanded that the Negro be turned over to it, declaring they were going to carry him to the girl's father.

The sheriff said the officer was covered with guns and there was nothing he could do but let the mob have its way.

Girl Found Dead Week Ago

The girl's body was found near her home 11 miles north of Marianna and two miles from here last Friday, hidden under some pine boughs.

She had been attacked and her head crushed in by some instrument. A hammer was found near the body.

Witnesses at the inquest testified tracks led from the body to a house where Neal lived and that blood-stained clothing was found in the house.

Neal, a 23-year-old Negro, was taken first to jail in Chipley, but later removed to Brewton for safekeeping.

Sheriff Byrne annnounced last night the Negro had confessed the attack and quoted him as saying, "I got to thinking I had done played the devil and she was half dead anyhow, so I went back and killed her."

No Federal Action Taken

WASHINGTON, Oct. 26. (AP)—Attorney General Cummings tonight studied reports of the plight of Claude Neal, Negro threatened with lynching as a result of an attack on a white girl, and decided there was no basis for federal action.

Reports the Negro had been transported across the state line from Alabama to Florida by a mob met the statement at the justice department that this was not within the scope of the federal kidnaping statute, which applies to abductions involving ransom.

The department said no agents have been detailed to the case.

NEGRO IS SEIZED BY FLORIDA MOB

Post

Confessed Attacker, Slayer Of Girl Taken From Alabama Jail.

10-26-34

By United Press.

BREWTON, Ala., Oct. 26.—A mob which stormed the county jail here early today to seize Claude Neal, 23, confessed attacker and slayer of Miss Lola Cannidy, 20, was believed en route to Marianna, Fla., to turn their prisoner over to the girl's father. Neal was taken from jail shortly after 2 a.m. by 100 armed men who came here in 30 cars bearing Florida licenses.

Birmingham

Sheriff G. S. Byrne said the men surrounded the jail and demanded the prisoner. The night jailer called him from his residence, Sheriff Byrne said, and he convinced the men that Neal was not there. Apparently satisfied, the men left and the sheriff returned to his home. A short time later the group again appeared and forced the jailer to open the cells for their inspection. A spokesman for the band told the officer they would not harm the negro but would turn him over to the girl's father at Marianna.

Ala

The cars disappeared down the highway to Florida and were over the state line before other officers could be summoned.

Florida officers were notified and took up the hunt.

The negro had been brought here for safekeeping after a mob threatened to storm the Chipley, Fla., jail last week when he was arrested shortly after the murder.

Sheriff Byrne said the negro confessed yesterday to criminally attacking and murdering the girl on a lake near her home. He said he first choked and beat her into semi-consciousness and later returned and beat her to death with a heavy club.

His mother and aunt are held in Fort Barrancas near Pensacola.

Negro's Seizure Will Be Probed

Advertiser

11-3-34

Montgomery

Solicitor Caffey, However, Thinks It Will Be Very Difficult To Fix Blame

Letters have been received by Gov. Miller from Circuit Judge F. W. Hare and Circuit Solicitor Hugh M. Caffey, Jr., promising as complete an investigation as possible in the limited time that is available between court terms, into the taking from the Escambia County jail at Brewton recently by a mob of Claude Neal, Florida negro prisoner, who was later lynched near Greenwood, Fla. Assurance is given by Judge Hare that if facts disclosed by the investigation warrant it, the Escambia County Grand Jury will be immediately called into session to act.

These letters are in response to a communication forwarded by the Governor last Monday to the judge and solicitor requesting that the occurrence at the Brewton jail be thoroughly investigated to determine whether the sheriff, his deputies, or anyone else had violated the law, and if it was found that there was such violation, that the Grand Jury be convened to act in the matter.

That the investigation is a considerable undertaking in view of the circumstances involved, is frankly admitted by the solicitor in his letter, who points out that it was about 3 o'clock in the morning when the prisoner was removed from the jail; that there were no witnesses except the sheriff and his deputies and that it will, therefore, be very difficult to determine whether they were culpable in the matter or not.

Judge Hare wrote the Governor as follows:

"Your letter of the 29th regarding the very regrettable affair at Brewton received, and I at once arranged for a personal interview with Mr. Caffey. He will at once make a careful investigation and report his findings. I trust he will be able to complete his investigation between now and Monday, Nov. 5, as we have a regular two weeks term of court at Evergreen commencing at that date.

"Should his investigation disclose facts making it advisable to call the Grand Jury together, this will have to be postponed till after Nov. 17 unless both he and I are relieved in Evergreen. I will take this up with you should Mr. Caffey's report advise a session of the Grand Jury."

In his letter to the Chief Executive Solicitor Caffey said:

"I have your letter of Oct. 29 with reference to the recent mob which took a Florida prisoner from the Brewton jail, carrying him back to Florida and there lynching him, and calling on me to have a thorough investigation made to ascertain whether or not the law was violated by the sheriff of this county or any of his deputies or by any one else.

"I was in Monroe County at my regular term of court during the week when this happened and will have to be in Conecuh County for two weeks beginning Monday. I will make such investigation as I am able between now and that time. As the prisoner was taken away around 3 o'clock in the morning, it is going to be very difficult to determine whether or not the sheriff or his deputies were culpable in the matter, as there were naturally no witnesses other than themselves to the occurrence at that time of the night. As soon as I have completed my investigation I will advise you fully."

Florida May Be Scene of Lynching Bee

10-27-34

Atlanta Ga.

GREENWOOD, Fla., Oct. 26.—(Special)—Claude Neal, Jackson county, Florida, Negro, was taken from the jail in Brewton, Ala., where he had been carried for safe keeping early today after having been arrested and alleged to have confessed to officers an alleged attack and the slaying of Miss Lola Cannidy, 22 year-old white woman near here last week. Jackson county officers reported that they knew of a scheduled lynching as reprisal for the crime, but said tonight that they knew of "no way to prevent" the occurence.

A Marianna, county seat of Jackson, deputy sheriff, said he had heard "of several places" where the victim of the mob might be killed and that the regular force of deputies, 32 in number, had been augmented by a dozen extra officers and scattered about the county in an effort to stop it. That the man is yet alive and information is general as to the intent of the mob is attested to by statement of Sheriff J. P. Harrell of Chipley, the adjoining county, who said that he had been telephoned that the mob would take its prey to the spot of the alleged attack, tie him to a stake and "let the girl's father kill him."

10-27-34

A Marianna newspaper, the Times-Courier, said it had been informed that the helpless alleged felon would be burned at the stake at the original crime scene, and quoted a deputy sheriff as saying in his opinion the mob would not be bothered either before or after the perpetration of its intended deed.

The Dothan (Ala.) Eagle, published just forty miles north of this place, said it had been told the mob was holding the Negro four miles from the scene of the attack and that a brother of the dead girl had been informed that the lynching would be held "soon". The paper further said the mob had invited "all white folks to attend the slaying."

Telegram Sent

Meanwhile Governor Dave Sholtz' secretary at Tallahassee, J. P. Newell, said the chief executive was out and that he (Newell) was trying to get information from Jackson county officers. He said he had not received a message from the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People asking that troops be sent to the scene.

It was learned on good authority however that a telegram was sent by Mrs. William B. Cornell, chairman of the Florida Council of the Association for the Prevention of Lynching, composed of Southern white women, to Governor Sholtz urging him to call out troops to prevent the anticipated horrible event.

The message read: "Cold-blooded expected lynching of Negro in Jackson county tonight too horrible to contemplate. Speaking for the state Association of Southern Women for Prevention of Lynching, Will you not call out troops to prevent crime. Remember your words to me last January 'give me two hours notice and I will call out troops to prevent a lynching in Florida.'"

Evidences of action in response to this strong message were not available at a late hour tonight nor was information obtainable as to whether the murder-bent mob had accomplished its purpose.

NEGRO LYNCHED BY FLORIDA MOB

Attacker And Slayer Of White Girl Mutilated And Killed.

Post

10-27-34

By United Press.

MARIANNA, Fla., Oct. 27.—The body of Claude Neal, 23, negro, confessed attacker and slayer of a white girl, swung from a tree on the courthouse lawn here today, victim of an enraged mob's vengeance.

A crowd of 100 men, women and children silently gazed at the body, nude except for a sack reaching from waist to knees.

Birmingham

The negro had been shot at least 50 times, burned with red hot irons and dragged through the streets behind an automobile.

The body was horribly mutilated, and it was reported Neal had been forced to mutilate himself before he died.

Sheriff W. F. Chambliss, speaking from his home two blocks from the courthouse square, insisted he knew nothing of the lynching.

A description of the scene and the body was furnished the United Press by Allison White, employe of an automobile concern near the square. White saw the body and the crowd on his way to work.

White said the negro, who told officers he beat Lola Cannidy, 20, to death after criminally attacking her on her father's farm near Greenwood last week, was brought to town shortly after midnight.

The body trailed through the dust at the end of a rope behind an automobile, White said, and was swung, dead, from a tree. A mob of at least 5,000 composed the lynching party.

Neal was taken early yesterday from the county jail at Brewton, Ala., by a mob of armed men traveling in Florida-licensed cars. Spokesmen announced their intention of turning him over to the slain girl's father, George Cannidy, for his personal vengeance.

For hours whereabouts of the negro and his captors was unknown. Last night a crowd of 5,000 gathered at the Cannidy home waiting for the mob to deliver the negro. Cannidy, carrying a shotgun, urged the crowd to be orderly and to rely upon him to "attend to" the negro.

The mob slowly dispersed after a telephone call came to a nearby filling station saying Neal had already been hanged in a Chattahoochee river swamp and that his body would be delivered to Cannidy.

Threats against the negro were voiced by Cannidy, his wife and the slain girl's older sister, Mattie.

A woman in the crowd displayed a curry comb and promised to use it to torture Neal if he was brought there alive.

A man representing himself as a member of the Florida legislature addressed the Greenwood crowd in humorous vein.

Neal was rushed across the state line to the Brewton jail after he had been hustled from county to county in Florida to escape mobs.

At Pensacola, where he was held briefly, he signed a full confession to slaying the girl. After attacking the girl and beating her into insensibility he returned to the [illegible] pigpen on her father's farm [illegible] clubbed her [illegible] death. He [illegible] her body with lo

Lynchings-1934
Cases of

Florida

4065

The lone deputy, T. M. Graves, said that he tried to switch Johnson from the city to the county jail and in the process, the Negro had been wrested from him by a group of armed men in a dozen automobiles.

The Negro was found shot to death about 12 miles from here.

Several local organizations are demanding the removal of the deputy sheriff, as it was pointed out that he failed to take the necessary precautions to protect his prisoner. The Governor has ordered an investigation.

New York Evening Journal

FEB 1 1934

Lynch Victim Found Slain by Police Gun

Deputy Charges Death Pistol was Taken from Him by Mob

TAMPA, Fla Feb. 1.—The five bullets which ended the life of Robert Johnson Negro lynch victim, fired from the gun of Deputy Constable T. M. Graves, who had him in custody at the time, an inquiry has revealed.

The disclosure came after Governor Dave Sholtz ordered a thorough investigation of the lynching, the first here in twenty-five years.

Graves said the mob which took his prisoner disarmed him and kept his gun.

Brooklyn, N. Y. Eagle

FEB 5 1934

Tampa lynches a Negro for being accused rightly or wrongly, of being a chicken thief Which is a cruel and unusual death for a colored man to die. There's some dignity in being martyrized for a murder you never committed, none at all in being sacrificed to the greater good of a white neighbor's henhouse.

Fla. Sheriff Hands Negro to Lynchers

2-10-34

TAMPA, Fla.—What is believed to have been collusion on the part of a deputy sheriff and a mob resulted in the lynching of Robert Johnson, 22, who had been arrested on suspicion of attacking a young white cigar worker here on January 29.

FLA. LYNCHING TERMED 'COLD-BLOODED' MURDER

INNOCENT YOUTH IS VICTIM OF MOB

Courier
2-10-34
Pittsburgh Pa.

TAMPA, Fla., Feb. 8—An innocent man—victim of the South's spurious "honor code"—was lynched by a mob of Florida whites here early Tuesday morning. The death-dealing orgy, branded by leading white daily newspapers and citizens of the Everglade State as a "cold-blooded" murder, has aroused the ire of an entire nation and has placed Deputy Constable T. M. Graves, white, "on the spot" for usurping authority.

"Transferred" at 3 A. M.

Drastic accusations have already been made, charging that Graves was a part of an alleged "frameup" which led to the merciless shooting and murder of Robert Johnson. Considered by grand jury probes as quite a "coincident," Deputy Graves carelessly "removed" Johnson from one jail with the alleged "intention" of transferring him to another at the unseemly hour of about 3 o'clock in the morning, and a mob met the constable and his prisoner at that identical hour and marched the victim off to a horrible death.

Deputy Found "Unbruised"

Belying Graves' published statement as to rough handling by the mob which took the prisoner away from him, a careful investigation by the grand jury and a physical examination of the constable revealed no evidence whatever of bruises or of manhandling, which the deputy claimed. Graves was grilled for four hours and thirty-five minutes by the grand jury. And the investigators are continuing to press the deputy for a satisfactory answer as to why the prisoner was removed at such an indiscreet hour in the morning, when there was no occasion for a transfer at such a time.

Courier
2-10-34

Victim Guiltless, Say

State Attorney J. Rex Farrior declared Wednesday that after examining 12 or more witnesses concerning an alleged and widely heralded charge of an attack upon a white woman which agitators hoped to pin on Johnson, not "one scintilla of evidence" had been discovered which would place any guilt upon the lynched man.

Pittsburgh Pa.

Governor Calls Deputy

Enraged at the crime, and believing that it has cast a blot on the name of the city of Tampa and the State of Florida, Governor Sholtz called for a detailed report on the tragic affair and also for a special explanation as to why a city prisoner should be turned over to a deputy constable between the hours of 2 and 3 o'clock in the morning. The governor was also insistent that Graves should be summoned so that he could personally question him. The chief executive of the State also wanted to know why Johnson was delivered over to Graves, who had no authority as a regular deputy constable to handle a prisoner.

Graves was called to appear before the governor Wednesday, but due to the fact that he had to face a grand jury probe on that day, Sholtz demanded that he be brought into his office on Thursday.

Daily Condemns Murder

The Tampa Morning Tribune, writing editorially on the case, says: "Johnson was taken from the city prison by a constable at the hour when the murderers were waiting, on the route taken by the officer to the county jail. Evidently there had been careful preparation for the 'execution.' The murderers knew just what was to be done with their victim, and at just what time. A dastardly murder has been committed, and under circumstances which justify strong suspicion as to motives other than those usually inciting mob violence.

"Not only in vindication of the good name, the peace and order of the community, but in justice to the peaceful and law-abiding Negro citizenry of Tampa, which is second to none in the country, this murder must not be permitted to go unpunished," the editorial concluded.

NEGRO YOUTH IS TORTURED AND KILLED

~~Daily~~ Worker

Killers Announced Their Plans in Press 24 Hours Ahead

10-29-34

U. S. WILL NOT ACT

New York, N.Y.

ILD Organizes Protests, Demands Death to the Lynchers

MARIANNA, Fla., Oct. 28.—Claude Neal, 24-year-old Negro youth, was fiendishly tortured to death near here last night, his body mutilated with knives, riddled with bullets and then dragged behind an automobile for several miles and s rung up to a tree in the yard of the court house here. State and county officials of Florida and Alabama and the Federal authorities refused to lift a finger to prevent the plans of the lynchers, which were publicly announced twenty-four hours ahead through invitations in the local boss press and by runners along the countryside for "all white people to turn out to watch the fun."

Only after the lynchers had carried through their hideous crime were Florida guardsmen called out, and then not against the lynchers, but for use against indignant local Negro workers, who sought both to protest the lynch murder and to protect their homes from the lynch gangs that had begun to terrorize the Negro population, raiding the Negro section of the town and setting fire to several houses. Bud Gammon, another Negro, was arrested and threatened with lynching for striking a white man, Walter Cook, in self-defense. Cook has not been arrested.

U. S. Won't Act

Neal was kidnapped early Friday morning across the Florida-Alabama state line, after he was handed over to a joint Florida-Alabama "lynch committee" by Sheriff G. S. Byrne, in charge of the jail at Brewton, Ala., where Neal was confined, following his arrest on a charge of murdering a white woman in Marianna, Fla. Directly after the seizure of Neal by the mob, the sheriff issued the usual statement that "the Negro had confessed."

Transported in a motorcade across the Florida line, Neal was held captive by the lynchers for 24 hours, while they prepared the lynching and broadcast invitations. Although the attention of the Federal government was called to the kidnaping by the International Labor Defense, which warned of the announced plans of the lynchers, Attorney General Cummings announced on Saturday, several hours before Neal was lynched, that the U. S. government had "decided there was no basis for Federal action."

Neal met an agonizing death on the banks of the Chipola River. He was brutally tortured in the light of bonfires, while a mob estimated at 2,000 looked on and cheered in fiendish glee. Burning brands were taken from the bonfires and applied to the soles of his feet, his abdomen and other parts of his body. He was mutilated by knives before the lynchers ended his tortures by riddling his body with bullets.

Daily Worker

Battered Body Drapped to Farm

The battered body was then dragged by the mob of 2,000 to the farm of George Cannidy, father of the murdered white girl, who had been promised he would be permitted to fire the first shot at Neal. After the body had been viewed by the entire Cannidy family and several of them had fired bullets into it, the body was then taken to the yard of the local court house.

The Times Courier, Marianna newspaper, announcing the plans of the lynchers, had quoted a deputy sheriff as saying in his opinion the mob would not be bothered either before or after the lynching.

Governor Dave Sholtz of Florida in calling out the troops, only after the lynchers had been given time to carry out their plans, declared that "under existing circumstances it would have been futile to call out the militia." He described the lynching as "not only deplorable but so absolutely unnecessary," and stressed the rapidity with which the Florida lynch courts move to railroad accused Negroes to execution.

I. L. D. Calls For Mass Protests

The International Labor Defense yesterday called on all opponents of lynching, on all friends of the oppressed Negro people, to organize vigorous protest actions against this latest lynch outrages, the 24th reported already this year. The organization sent sharp protest telegrams to President Roosevelt, and to Governor Scholtz and Miller of Florida and Alabama, demanding the removal, indictment for murder, and application of the death penalty to State and County officials and private individuals implicated in the kidnapping and lynching of Claude Neal.

Lynching Fiesta Staged By Mob In Florida Town

Advertiser

Crowd Invites 'All White Folks' To Slated Death; Negro Held For Attack

10-27-34

Troops 'Stand by'

Montgomery Ala.

Telegrams To Governor Protest And Demand He Do Something About It

By WILLIAM I. TRUBY
Associated Press Staff Writer

GREENWOOD, FLA., Oct. 26.—(AP)—A crowd of several thousand persons gathered to see the lynching of Claude Neal, negro, slowly dwindled away tonight to a thousand of the determined who remained to witness the death of the man accused of attacking and slaying Lola Cannidy, young white woman.

The crowd began gathering at noon when word spread that a mob had entered the Brewton, Ala., jail and would bring Neal back to the scene of the crime and kill him.

The lynching was scheduled for between 8 and 9 p.m., but, when the crowd grew to unexpected size, a "committee of six" appeared and said they feared disorder and Neal would not be killed until the crowd grew smaller.

Negro Held In Woods

The "committee" told newspapermen that they had Neal "down in the woods" a short distance away and as soon as they believed it safe he would be brought out and killed. They said they feared shooting, as there were numerous armed men in the crowd, and wanted to wait until it was safe.

After the negro was killed, the committee announced, the body would be taken to Marianna, the county seat nine miles away, and there hung in the courthouse square for all to see.

Natives of the county in the crowd when questioned said they recognized no officers and none could be found. The Governor of the State had offered to call out troops if needed but the Jackson County sheriff said he felt he was capable of handling the situation.

The crowd first gathered in front of the farm home of George Cannidy, father of the slain girl, in response to messengers who had said "there will be a lynching" at the Cannidy home. It was made up of men, women, children, and babes in arms.

Crowd Is Orderly

It was good humored and orderly for the most part, patiently awaiting developments.

A man who identified himself as a member of the Florida Legislature made a humorous address and promised action but urged his audience to be quiet.

The Cannidy family, father, mother, eight children, aunts, and uncles, came from the house and stood before the crowd.

A member of the lynching committee said the negro first would be brought to the home and the family allowed to do with him as they pleased, then he would be taken to the pigpen a half mile away in the middle of a cotton field where Lola Cannidy was killed and there Neal would be slain.

At the house were sharp pointed sticks and numerous knives.

Bonfires near the pigpen attracted the crowd shortly after dark and it moved into the cotton field but near midnight started breaking up and a mile long line of automobiles slowly moved toward Marianna.

From Arcadia, where he was stopping tonight, Gov. Dave Sholtz authorized calling out of the national guard if Jackson County authorities thought troops were necessary to prevent the slaying of the negro.

J. P. Newell, executive secretary to the Governor, said earlier that Sheriff W. F. Chambliss told him he believed he was capable of taking care of any situation that might arise. Newell was again trying to reach the sheriff with the Governor's offer of troops.

Hundreds Try to Attend

Meanwhile hundreds of visitors were reported heading toward Greenwood after the mob had issued an invitation for "all white folks to attend the slaying."

Earlier a telephone call to the Sheriff in an adjoining county had informed him the negro would be tied to a stake and the father of the slain girl given the opportunity to shoot him to death.

Sheriff Chambliss said he had sworn in special officers and believed he could handle the situation but another officer said if the mob was determined to kill the negro he knew of "no way to prevent it."

He said his office had heard of several places where the scheduled lynching might take place and that a force of 32 deputies and a dozen special officers were prepared to try to stop the lynching.

Troops "Demanded"

The head of the Florida Council for the Association of Southern Women for the Prevention of Lynching and the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People said they had sent telegrams to the Governor urging the use of troops to prevent the mob from carrying out its scheduled lynching.

The Times-Courier, Marianna newspaper, said it had been informed the negro would be taken to the scene of the crime and burned at the stake and quoted a deputy as saying in his opinion the mob would not be bothered either before or after the lynching.

Everybody Invited

Advertiser

The Dothan, Ala., Eagle, published 40 miles north of here, said it had been told the mob was holding the negro four miles from the scene of the attack and that a brother of the girl had been informed the lynching would occur "as soon as it gets dark." The mob, The Eagle said, had invited "all white folks to attend the slaying."

10-27-34

Greenwood has a population of about 400 persons and is nine miles north of Marianna.

Montgomery Ala.

Cannidy, the father of the slain girl, is an aged farmer.

Neal was taken from the Brewton jail where he had been held for safekeeping early today by a mob estimated at 100 men. Sheriff G. S. Byrne said the mob, which appeared in Brewton in automobiles carrying Florida license plates, covered an officer at the jail with a pistol and demanded that the negro be turned over to it, declaring they were going to carry him to the girl's father.

Beaten To Death

Miss Cannidy's body was found near her home two miles from Greenwood last Friday, hidden under some pine boughs.

She had been attacked and her head crushed in by some instrument. A hammer was found near the body.

Witnesses at the inquest testified tracks led from the body to a house where Neal lived and that blood stained clothing was found in the house.

Neal, a 23-year-old negro, was taken first to jail in Chipley but later removed to Brewton for safekeeping.

Sheriff Byrne announced last night the negro had confessed to the attack and quoted him as saying "I got to thinking I had done played the devil and she was half dead anyhow, so I went back and killed her."

Lynchings-1934
Cases of.

Georgia

4869

Macon, Ga. News
October 9, 1934

NEGRO REPORTED LYNCHED BY MOB

McIntosh County Officers Search for Body of Curtis Jones Near Darien

DARIEN, Ga., Oct. 9. (AP)—McIn-osh county authorities today were earching for the body of a Negro who Sheriff A. S. Poppell said he believed had been lynched by a roup of white and Negro men Sun-ay.

Poppell said the mob went to the ome of Curtis James, Negro, tur-entine worker of Jones, Ga., Sun-ay and fired through the window. The 14 members of the mob then ntered the house and "while the Negro and his wife pleaded with the mob to kill him at home so they ould have a funeral, I was told the mob spirited him away," Poppell aid.

Body May Be Burned

"This is one body the undertaker will not get," one member of the mob was quoted as saying and heriff Poppell said he believed the ody had been burned.

The sherif said 12 white men and wo Negroes, all masked, were in he mob.

James was arrested several weeks go on a charge of stealing turpen-ine and bootlegging it in Jackson-ille, the sheriff said, but was ac-quitted at a trial in McIntosh su-perior court during which James and nother Negro implicated several white men.

He was arrested a second time but ad not been tried.

Poppell said he hoped to make ome arrests in the lynching soon.

New York Herald-Tribune

OCT 10 1934

Negro Lynched e Pleads for Him

Police Seek Victim, Wounded and Dragged From Home

DARIEN, Ga., Oct. 9 (AP).—Officers today sought the body of a Negro who was taken from his home by fourteen men while he and his wife pleaded that he be killed in his own house so a funeral could be held.

Sheriff A. S. Poppell said twelve white men and two Negro men, all masked, went to the home of Curtis James, near Jones, Ga., last Sunday and wounded him by firing through the window. Entering the house, they announced, "This is one body the undertaker won't get," and dragged the wounded Negro away. Two Negroes have been arrested in connection with the lynching.

The Sheriff said James was arrested several weeks ago on a charge of stealing turpentine and bootlegging it to Jacksonville. He was acquitted at his trial, but implicated several white men.

Gazette
Darien, Ga., [redacted]
October 12, 1934

Man Lynched Near Darien Last Sunday

Officers are yet looking for the body of a Negro who was taken from his home by a mob while he and his wife pleaded that he be killed in his own house so a funeral could be held.

Sheriff A. S. Poppell said the mob of twelve white and two Negro men, all masked, went to the home of Curtis James, near Jones, Ga., Sunday and wounded him by firing through the window.

One of the mob remarked, "This is one body the undertaker won't get," and dragged the wounded Negro away in spite of his own and his wife's pleas that he be allowed to die at home.

Sheriff Poppell said no trace had been found of the body up to Thursday night and he believed it had been burned.

Two Negroes have been arrested in connection with the lynch-ng and the sheriff said he expec-ted to make additional arrests.

While there was no announced notive for the lynching the sher-ff said James was arrested sever-l weeks ago on a charge of steal-ng turpentine and bootlegging it o Jacksonville. He was acquitted t his trial but implicated several white men.

Lancaster LeCount and Dave yson, the two negro men arres-ed in Curtis James lynching ase, were given a preliminary earing here today before Just-ces Wheeler and DeFoor. The earing began at 12:30 and en-ed 6 o'clock. Hilda James, wife f the dead man, employed R. I. Anderson of Tattnall county o prosecute the case. C. J. Cog-ell of Brunswick appeared for r the defense. Both men were ound over under $300 bonds to Superior court.

Madisonville, Ky. Messenger
October 17, 1934

NO LYNCHING

Curtis James, a Georgia Negro, was arrested last week on a charge of stealing turpentine and bootlegging it. He was acquitted, but implicated several white men.

Tuesday night James was dragged from his house by fourteen white men, although he and his wife pleaded that he be killed then and there, so that a proper funeral could be held. He has not been seen since.

Doubtless this will be set down as another lynching, but to outsiders it bears all the earmarks of a plain, ordinary gang murder. It is not the first time that gangsters have taken an important state's witness for a ride.

It is hard to see how any state, even one as complacent about lynchings as Georgia has been, can stand for this sort of thing. If Curtis James has been murdered, then hanging his murderers would have no bearing on the lynching problem; for there is unquestionably a difference between murders. When an enraged mob murders a man accused of crime, the state suffers badly enough, in all conscience; but when gangsters put on the spot a man not even accused of crime, but whose testimony might send the gangsters to jail, then if the state fails to act it proves itself so feeble and worthless as hardly to deserve the name of government at all.

BALTIMORE, MD.
EVENING SUN

OCT 11 1934

No Lynching

Curtis James, a Georgia Negro, was arrested last week on a charge of stealing turpentine and bootlegging it. He was acquitted, but implicated several white men.

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Lynchings-1934
Cases of. ✓

Kentucky

4066

Kentucky Negro Is Lynched By Mob

Advertiser

1-25-34

HAZARD, KY., Jan. 24.—(AP)—Rex Scott, 20, negro, was hanged to a beech-tree in the Cornett Hill graveyard in Knott County tonight about an hour after he was forcibly removed from the Perry County Jail here by 30 or 40 masked leaders of an armed mob of approximately 300 men.

Montgomery Ala.

The body was found by members of a posse led by Sheriff Filmore McIntosh, who reached the scene in time to see the members of the mob scatter and run to nearby mining camps. There were approximately 40 bullet wounds in the body.

Scott was accused of slugging Alex Johnson, a miner, on a street here Saturday night. Johnson died at 10:30 o'clock tonight, an hour after Scott had been lynched.

It was the Nation's first lynching in 1934.

NEGRO LYNCHED

Three Arrested After Man Is Slain by Kentuckians

Telegraph

HAZARD, Ky., Jan. [illegible] (AP).—The body of Rex Scott, 20, Negro, shot approximately 40 times, was found hanging from a tree two miles south of Vicco tonight about two hours after he was removed by a mob from the Perry county jail.

The body was found by a posse led by Sheriff Filmore McIntosh, Circuit Judge Sam Ward and Commonwealth's Attorney J. A. Smith. The posse arrived just in time to see a crowd of several hundred people scatter and run to nearby coal camps.

Three men were arrested, but their names were not learned here. Officers who phoned here said the three were stragglers who were captured after the main body of lynchers had scattered.

It was the nation's first lynching in 1934.

Kentucky Has First Lynching Of 1934

New York

HAZARD, Ky.—The dubious distinction of having the first lynching of 1934 went to this state on January 24, when Rex Scott, 20, was left dangling [illegible] the Cornett Hill graveyard in Knott County about an hour after he had been dragged from the Perry County jail by thirty or forty masked leaders of an armed mob of about 500 men.

The body had been riddled with forty bullets. 2-3-34

Scott was accused of slugging Alex Johnson, a miner, on the previous Saturday. Johnson died on January 24 just about an hour after Scott had been lynched.

W. C. Knuckles, deputy jailer, was standing across the street from the jail when armed and masked men began swarming around the jail. He walked toward the jail door where he was met by Troy P. Combs, the jailer, who said, "Get in here quick, Bill."

Knuckles was not molested until he started through the door, then several men put revolvers against his side and one remarked, "You'll be all right if you stand still."

The leaders of the mob forced themselves inside the jail and demanded the key to Scott's cell, dragged him outside and placed him in an automobile. The shouting mob entered automobiles and trucks and the motorcade started for the city limits. As the machines passed the spot where Johnson was slugged, the mob fired 100 shots into the air.

Governor Orders Investigation

News of the lynching caused indignation through the state. Armed Negroes from other parts of the county and state gathered and threatened to shoot up the town but the white mob had dispersed.

Governor Lafoon ordered an investigation and stated that every effort would be made to identify and convict members of the mob.

Louisiana.

4067

Lynchings-1934
Cases of.

MOB SPIRIT IS AROUSED AGAINST TEN

Call 8-10-34 City

Trouble Started Over a Mule; Brother Is Shot To Death

By Pierre Vignon

FRANKLINTON, La. — (ANP)— "Just because N-----s' have no rights that white people will respect", a peaceful, thrifty family of colored farm people, living as law abiding citizens until 10 days ago, are now involved in what may prove to be one of the most sensational cases in the history of Louisiana, a new "Scottsboro case," the reverberations of which may be heard all over the world.

Thursday morning, one member of this family, Jerome Wilson, 28 years old, was found guilty of murder. He has been sentenced to the gallows.

His mother and a brother are to be tried for murder. An uncle is indicted as accessory after the fact of murder. Another brother is dead, shot to death by a deputy sheriff. Four members of his family, including two sisters, are being held in jail as material witnesses.

Mob Spirit Aroused

Against this family of 10 persons, the whites in several counties are aroused. Mobs of increasing size have sought to seize them from the jail. During the trial of Jerome Wilson the mob attempted to take him while he was in the courtroom.

All for what? Only this: John Wilson, father in this family, owned a mule. Joe Magee, white range rider, complained that the mule had not been dipped, according to state law, and had come to the Wilson farm to take possession of the mule.

The Wilson boys advised Magee not to disturb the mule until he had a chance to consult with their father, who was away at the time.

Magee was not satisfied. What right had "n....s" to tell him what to do? He went away and came back with Deputy Sheriff Delois Woods, 61 years old; Deputy Sheriff McCauley McCain, and Brad Spears, a white farmer. They were supposed to help Magee handle the "n....s".

Had No Warrants

When they returned to the farm, they commanded the Wilson boys to submit to arrest for refusing to allow Magee to inspect the mule. The boys demanded that the depties show their warrants before they would agree to go along. The deputies had no warrants to arrest the boys, nor did they have any warrants to invade the premises.

Nevertheless, when the boys refused to be arrested, the deputies started to gang them. The boys fought back. One brother of Jerome, Moise, was shot in his tracks.

Moise was taken to jail suffering from gunshot wounds and allowed to die without medical attention because, the sheriff said, he feared to go after a doctor, on account of the threatening attitude of the mob.

After Moise had been shot, Jerome Wilson is alleged to have shot Woods, who died from the effect of the wound. Jerome was then shot by Deputy Sheriff McCain.

Draws Graphic Picture

M. I. Varnado of Bogalusa, drew a graphic picture in courtroom during the trial of Jerome to describe the efforts of this colored family to protect its property against invasion. There were the mother, Tempie, urging her boys not to allow these white men to ruthlessly violate their rights, and the two young daughters, Unchell and Alexine, cringing in fear from the officers and hoping that their brother might protect them.

Felton, 12-year-old brother, was shot in the leg. He testified at the trial of Jerome, creating a sensation when he told the court that he had not mentioned certain details of the shooting because "white folks told me not to."

Nevertheless, in spite of the fact that Jerome and Moise offered up their lives in defense of their home, the whites are after the blood of the entire family. Tempie, his mother, and Luther, another brother, must stand trial for murder. Samuel, an uncle, must stand trial as an accessory.

Other charges are being contemplated against the four held as material witnesses.

Four hours after the jury had retired to deliberate on the verdict, the mob sought to grab Jerome. who had to be wheeled into the courtroom because of his wounds.

DOUBT STORY OF RACE MOB LYNCHING MAN

Defender
8-11-34
Chicago, Illinois

SHREVEPORT, La., Aug. 10.—Although daily newspapers and white officials of this town have given out the information that Grafton Page, who was found beaten to death last Friday night, was lynched "by his own people," there are persistent rumors here that such is not the case.

Page, who is believed to have become "familiar" with a Race girl, much to the annoyance of her white "boy friend," was taken into the pine woods under cover of darkness and beaten so severely that he died without regaining consciousness. Whispers which have become audible within the past few days are to the effect that white men were the actual lynchers who didn't want the fact known that they resented a man's familiarity with a woman who was not white.

Deputy Sheriff W. G. Frye, who ordered the man's body cut down, has also indicated that he is willing to accept the reports as published in the daily press, and will make no effort to locate the lynchers. Thus far no one has come forward who appears to know anything about the actual lynching, but the rumors persist that the victim was disliked by the whites in the Bethany territory where the actual lynching took place. This is about 32 miles from Shreveport.

BATON ROUGE, LA
ADVOCATE

AUG 4 1934

Negro Bully Is Lynched by Mob from Own Race

Victim Tied to Tree and Fatally Whipped; Had Been in Trouble Frequently.

Shreveport, Aug. 3. (AP)—Caddo parish officers tonight reported the lynching of Grafton Page, a 30-year-old negro, by a mob composed of members of his own race because of an alleged insult by Page to Blanch Abram, 22, a negro girl who had been out riding with him.

The lynching near Bethany, La., on the Texas border, was investigated by Sheriff T. R. Hughes of Caddo parish, Deputies W. T. Prudhomme and W. G. Frye and Coroner Willis P. Butler.

The officers said that from evidence they gathered at the scene of the lynching Page was stripped, his hands tied to a tree limb above his head and he was beaten to death with pine knots.

A blind negro woman who lives near the scene of the lynching told the officers that she heard wild shrieks from the section and that in a few minutes calm descended over the area. No arrests had been made tonight and negroes of the section were reticent to discuss the killing.

The officers said they were told that Page had been drinking and called for the Abram girl and took her to ride in an automobile without her consent.

The automobile had a near-collision with a Texas truck and both truck and automobile went into the ditch along a highway. The girl was thrown out of the car and was temporarily knocked unconscious.

At this point, the officers said, a group of Bethany negroes who were searching for Page came up and seized him. Sheriff Hughes said the crowd carried Page into the woods probably with the intention of beating him but the sheriff expressed the opinion that during the beating the floggers lost their heads and killed Pagt.

Officers said Page recently had been charged with assault with a dangerous weapon upon another negro, but the charge was later withdrawn. Deputy Frye said Page had the reputation of being a "bully" among the negroes of the Bethany community.

ALEXANDRIA, LA.
TOWN TALK

AUG 4 1934

Negro Is Lynched by Negro Mob for Insulting Negress

SHREVEPORT, La., Aug. 4.—(By A. P.)—An insult to a negro woman. Blanche Abram, 22, was blamed today by officers for the lynching last night of Grafton Page, 30-year-old negro, by a group of about ten enraged members of his race.

Page was tied up a tree limb near Bethany, La., 22 miles from here, stripped and beaten to death with pine knots, Caddo parish officers who investigated the lynching reported.

Sheriff T. R. Hughes, of Caddo parish, and his deputies, who investigated the lynching, reported that Page in a drunken condition took the girl away with him in an automobile and had a wreck with a truck on the road, knocking the girl unconscious.

A small mob of negroes who had been trailing Page caught up with him at the scene of the wreck and seized him, carrying him into the woods.

There they beat him, and a blind negro woman who lives nearby told the officers that she heard screams from the woods and then all noise ceased.

Time
Chicago, Ill.

AUG 13 1934

RACES

Black Bee

Near Bethany, La., Grafton Page, 30-year-old Negro, was stripped naked. His hands were bound to a bough above his head. He was beaten to death with pine knots. Such was his punishment for "molesting" 22-year-old Blanche Abram. While drunk he had forced her into his automobile, driven furiously, almost hit a truck, careened into a ditch, knocking the girl unconscious.

Such were the facts, reported last week by officers of Caddo Parish, of a curious lynching—curious because not only Grafton Page but also Blanche Abram and all members of the lynching bee were Negroes.

Quitman, Ga., Free-Press
August 10, 1934

Negro Is Lynched By His Own Race

An insult to a negro woman, Blanche Abram, 22, was blamed by officers for the lynching of Grafton Page, 30-year old negro, by a group of about ten enraged members of his race, in Shreveport, Louisiana.

Page was tied up to a tree limb near Bethany, La., stripped and beaten to death with pine knots, Caddo Parish officers reported.

Sheriff T. R. Hughes of Caddo Parish, and his deputies, who investigated the lynching, reported that Page, in a drunken condition, took the girl away with him in an automobile and had a wreck with a truck on the road, knocking the girl unconscious.

A small mob of negroes who had been trailing Page caught up with him at the scene of the wreck and carried him into the woods.

There they beat him. A blind negro woman who lives near by told the officers that she heard screams from the woods and then all noise ceased.

The mob members were unidentified, and no arrests had been made. Officers sought further evidence in the lynching.

New York Times

AUG 4 1934

Y LYNCHING TO NEGROES

Officers Say Louisiana Group Killed Man of Own Race.

SHREVEPORT, La., Aug. 3 (AP).—Caddo Parish officers tonight reported the lynching of Grafton Page, 30 years old, a Negro, by members of his own race because of an alleged insult to Blanche Abram, 22, a Negro girl who had been out riding with him.

The lynching, near Bethany, La., on the Texas border, was investigated by Sheriff T. R. Hughes and deputies. They said that from evidence gathered at the scene Page was stripped, his hands were tied to a tree limb above his head, and then he was beaten to death with pine knots. No arrests had been made.

The officers said they were told that Page had been drinking and called for the Abram girl, forcing her to go on an automobile ride. The automobile was nearly in a crash with a truck and both vehicles went into a ditch. The girl was knocked unconscious. Then, the officers said, a group of Bethany Negroes who were searching for Page came up and seized him.

Monroe, La., Morning World
August 5, 1934

BLACK LYNCHED BY NEGRO MOB

Victim Beaten To Death Near Shreveport For Insulting Girl

SHREVEPORT, La., Aug. 4.—(AP)—An insult to a negro woman, Blanche Abram, 22, was blamed today by officers for the lynching last night of Grafton Page, 30-year-old negro, by a group of about ten enraged members of his race.

Page was tied up a tree limb near Bethany, La., 22 miles from here, stripped, and beaten to death with pine knots, Caddo parish officers, who investigated the lynching, reported.

Sheriff T. R. Hughes, of Caddo parish, and his deputies who investigated the lynching, reported that Page in a drunken condition took the girl away with him in an automobile and had a wreck with a truck on the road, knocking the girl unconscious.

A small mob of negroes who had been trailing Page caught up with him at the scene of the wreck and seized him, carrying him into the woods.

There they beat him and a blind negro woman who lives nearby told the officers that she heard screams from the woods and then all noise ceased.

The mob members were unidentified and no arrests had been made today as officers sought further evidence in the lynching.

When the body of Page was found at the spot of the lynching it had been cut down and his clothing had been thrown over it. When beaten he had been tied to the limb with his hands above his head.

Sheriff Hughes said he did not believe the negroes who lynched Page meant to kill him, but that they evidently lost control because of the insult to the girl and beat him to death while he was suspended by his hands.

W. G. Frye, one of Sheriff Hughes' deputies, described Page as a "bully" and a "trouble maker" in the negro community at Bethany. The officers were told that Page had been drinking all day yesterday.

BATON ROUGE, LA.
ADVOCATE

JUL 10 1934

Bastrop Mob Hangs Negro to Big Tree

Victim of Lynching Had Confessed Attempted Attack on 19-Year-Old Girl.

DISTRICT ATTORNEY WILL PROBE CASE

Neck Slashed Before Second Hanging When Rope Breaks First Time.

Bastrop, La., July 9 (AP) A mob of infuriated citizens tonight lynched Andrew McLeod, 26-year-old negro farmer, who officers said admitted that he attempted to attack a 19-year-old Bastrop girl early Sunday morning on a highway near here.

Officers said there were about 300 members in the mob. They formed in the northern section of this usually quiet little seat of Morehouse parish and marched on the small brick jail.

With little trouble the mob battered down the jail door and took the negro from his cell. He was cringing in a corner of his cell holding his hands over his head to ward off blows when the mob leaders grabbed him.

McLeod cried and pleaded with the mob to let him live, but once he was in their grasp he was taken out of the jail, carried to the courthouse, a block away and was hanged from the branch of a spreading oak tree on the courthouse lawn.

The mob dispersed and a few other citizens came up and cut down the body.

The lynching was carried out quietly without any shouting, demonstration or firing of guns. There was no night jailer on duty at the time of the attack on the jail and Chief of Police B. C. Walton was reported out of town.

Sheriff Fred Carpenter and his deputies, reported that they were powerless to stop the onslaught and prevent the lynching.

Witnesses said the mob went quietly to the courthouse lawn with the victim in their possession. A rope was produced. One member tossed the noose around a sturdy limb of the tree while three other men held the negro. Two others adjusted the noose about his neck and the victim was hanged. Thirty minutes later, witnesses said, McLeod was dead. His body, was turned over to an undertaker.

Witnesses said the mob began forming just after dark, but no word of the lynching got out until after the plan had been carried out, around 9 p. m.

Sheriff Carpenter was reported to have arrived on the scene later and led those who took down the body of McLeod.

No arrests had been made tonight, but it was stated that Dist. Atty. Frank Hawthorn would conduct an investigation tomorrow.

Witnesses told the Times at Shreveport details of the lynching. One of them said that the mob first used a telephone pole and then a railroad rail to batter in the door of the jail.

He said there were three negroes in the jail, each in a separate cell, and that two of the negro prisoners pointed fingers at McLeod.

The cell door was battered down with sledge hammers and McLeod was taken from his corner.

After being taken to the courthouse lawn, witnesses reported, the rope was fastened about McLeod's neck and he was made to stand on the top of an automobile and then pushed off.

The rope broke, this story continued and the victim fell to the ground. An unidentified man was reported to have slashed McLeod's throat with a knife while a stronger rope was being fixed. Then McLeod was strung up the second time, according to the story of witnesses and he died from hanging and stab wounds.

Officers said they had intended late today to file charges of attempted criminal assault against McLeod tomorrow morning.

The girl told officers that a negro grabbed her through a wire fence as she was walking along a road near Jones, La., 30 miles from here early Sunday morning.

She said she and her escort were returning home from a dance in an automobile when the automobile left the road and she started out walking to a filling station to obtain aid. She said her escort had been drinking.

McLeod was arrested shortly after the alleged attempted attack and officers said he admitted the charge.

The young woman is a member of a prominent family.

Lynchings - 1934
Cases of.

Louisiana

4068

NEGRO IS HANGED BY AVENGING MOB

Telegraph 7-10-34

Macon, Ga.

Man Accused of Attempted Assault Is Taken From Jail at Bastrop, Louisiana

BASTROP, La., July 9 (AP)—A mob of infuriated citizens tonight lynched Andrew McLeod, 26-year-old Negro farmer, who officers said admitted that he attempted to attack a 19-year-old Bastrop girl early Sunday morning on a highway near here.

Officers said there were about 300 members in the mob. They formed in the northern section of this usually quiet little seat of Morehouse parish and marched on the small brick jail.

With little trouble the mob battered down the jail door and took the Negro from his cell. He was cringing in a corner of his cell holding his hands over his head to ward off blows when the mob leaders grabbed him.

McLeod cried and pleaded with the mob to let him live, but once he was in their grasp he was taken out of the jail, carried to the court-house, a block away and was hanged from the branch of a spreading oak tree on the courthouse lawn.

The mob dispersed and a few other citizens came up and cut down the body.

Mob Works Quietly

The lynching was carried out quietly without any shouting, demonstration or firing of guns. There was no night jailer on duty at the time of the attack on the jail and Chief of Police B. C. Walton was reported out of town.

Sheriff Fred Carpenter and his deputies, reported that they were powerless to stop the onslaught and prevent the lynching.

Witnesses said the mob went quietly to the court house lawn with the victim in their possession. A rope was produced. One member tossed the noose around a sturdy limb of the tree while three other men held the Negro. Two others adjusted the noose about his neck and the victim was hanged. Thirty minutes later, witnesses said, McLeod was dead. His body was turned over to an undertaker.

Witnesses said the mob began forming just after dark, but no word of the lynching got out until after the plan had been carried out.

LOUISIANA MOB LYNCHES NEGRO

District Attorney Offers His Sympathy While Crowd Wrecks Jail

By United Press.

BASTROP, La., July 10.—The body of a lynched negro was cut down from an oak tree in the public square today. Sheriff J. F. Carpenter said he recognized no member of the mob which stormed parish prison last night to seize the negro. District Attorney F. W. Hawthorne, who told the mob he sympathized with its attitude, would not say what action he planned.

The negro, Andrew McCloud, 26, was suspected of an attempt to attack a white girl Saturday. The mob, which numbered 3,000, tore down a telephone pole and used it to batter locks from four jail doors.

Beaten and Stabbed

Limp from a beating and blood gushing from a knife wound in his neck, McCloud was dragged out with a noose already around his neck. He was lifted to the top of an automobile, the free end of the rope tied to a limb, and the car driven from under him.

While the mob was using the telephone pole as a ram, District Attorney Hawthorne arrived and made a speech.

"I sympathize with your attitude, but I'm afraid you'll get into trouble," he said.

"If you sympathize with us," one of the leaders shouted, "why don't you take off that straw hat and take a-hold of this telephone pole?"

Officers Powerless

Sheriff Carpenter and two deputies arrived and tried to dissuade the mob, with no success.

McCloud was arrested Sunday, some hours after a white girl reported an attempted attack. She and her escort were returning to Bastrop from a dance when their car ran into a ditch. She started afoot, to a filling station. A negro stepped out of the night and tried to drag her into a woods. Before he could get her off the road a car approached, frightening him away.

McCloud was said by authorities to have confessed.

Louisiana Mob Hangs Confessed Assaulter

BASTROP, La., July 9.—(AP)—A mob of infuriated citizens tonight lynched Andrew McLeod, 26-year-old negro farmer, who officers said admitted that he attempted to attack a 19-year-old Bastrop girl early Sunday morning on a highway near here.

Officers said there were about 300 members in the mob. They formed in the northern section of this usually quiet little seat of Morehouse parish and marched on the small brick jail.

With little trouble the mob battered down the jail door and took the negro from his cell. He was taken out of the jail, carried to the court-house, a block away and was hanged from the branch of a spreading oak tree on the courthouse lawn.

Court Officer Eggs Mob on to Lynch Negro

Youth Dragged Through Streets, Throat Cut, Hanged in Public Sq.

Daily Worker 7-11-34

New York N.Y.

BASTROP, La., July 10.—Egged on by District Attorney F. W. Hawthorne, a mob last night took Andrew McCloud, 26-year old Negro farmer from parish prison, dragged him through the streets with a noose around his neck, slit his throat, and hanged his body to an oak tree in the public square of this town.

The mob, estimated at 300, tore down a telephone pole and used it to batter locks from four doors in the prison. While it was engaged in battering its way into the jail, District Attorney Hawthorne arrived and made a speech, openly expressing sympathy with the aims of the lynchers.

"I sympathize with your attitude, but I'm afraid you'll get into trouble," he said.

Today, Hawthorne refused to state whether he would prosecute the leaders of the mob. Sheriff Carpenter and two deputies who were also present at the attack on the jail and the subsequent fiendish lynching, declared they "recognized no member of the mob.") None of the officers lifted a finger to protect their Negro prisoner.

McCloud was lifted to the top of an automobile after being dragged through the streets of the town, the free end of the rope tied to a limb and the car driven from under him. The first rope snapped and McCloud fell to the ground. A man then rushed up and slit his throat before a new rope was put around his neck.

McCloud was arrested on a charge of suspicion of an attempt to attack a white woman last Saturday night. Authorities refused to say on what grounds they had connected him with the alleged attempted attack, which is supposed to have occurred on a dark country road about 25 miles from here. The woman reporting the attempted attack could not identify him. Her story is that she and her escort were returning to Bastrop from a dance when their car ran into a ditch. Her escort remained in the car, while she set out afoot to a filling station. On the way, she says, a Negro stepped out of the night and started to drag her into a woods. He was, however, frightened off by an approaching car, she declares.

Although threats of lynching followed the arrest of McCloud no guard was placed at the prison, which does not maintain a night attendant. The authorities who aided and egged on the lynch mob, are now attempting to justify the crime with the claim that McCloud had "confessed" to the alleged attempted attack.

Charleston. S. C., Evening Post
July 10, 1934

MOB LYNCHES NEGRO FARMER

After Officers Report Confession of Attack Attempt

Bastrop, La., July 10. (AP)—A young negro farmer lay dead today—lynched by a mob that acted quickly after officers reported he had confessed an attempted attack on a prominent white girl.

Three hundred men hanged Andrew McLeod, 26, from the limb of an oak tree on the Court-house square here late last night despite his cries and pleas for mercy. Today his body was in an undertaking establishment here and authorities investigated the mob action.

McLeod was accused of attempting to attack the 19-year-old girl early Sunday near Jones, La., 30 miles from here. He was arrested Sunday and officers were preparing to file formal charges against him at the time the mob battered down the door of the small brick jail house last night and seized him.

Witnesses reported that the mob formed quietly and grew to such proportions that officers in the town were unable to halt their plans.

A telephone pole and a railroad rail were used to break down the iron doors to the small jail and to burst into the cell where the accused negro was crouched crying and pleading for mercy. The mob worked without any demonstrations.

The negro was forced to stand on the top of an automobile while the rope was fastened and then he was pushed clear. The first rope broke and the victim fell to the ground where an unidentified man ran up and slashed his throat.

A stronger rope was obtained and McLeod was hanged. Then the mob dispersed.

Reports stated that Chief of Police B. C. Walton was out of town at the time of the lynching and that there was no night marshall at the jail.

Sheriff Fred Carpenter reported that he and his deputies were unable to halt the mob plans. The sheriff later was said to have aided citizens in taking down the body of the negro.

The girl reported to officers that she was returning home from a dance late Saturday night with her eescort, who had been drinking, when their automobile left the road and she started walking to a gasoline station up the road in search of aid.

She said a negro grabbed her and tried to pull her through a wire fence beside the road, but that she fought him off and he fled at the approach of another car.

Louisiana Mob Hangs Confessed Assaulter

Constitution
7-10-34

Atlanta, Ga.

BASTROP, La., July 9.—(AP)—A mob of infuriated citizens tonight lynched Andrew McLeod, 26-year-old negro farmer, who officers said admitted that he attempted to attack a 19-year-old Bastrop girl early Sunday morning on a highway near here.

Officers said there were about 300 members in the mob. They formed in the northern section of this usually quiet little seat of Morehouse parish and marched on the small brick jail.

With little trouble the mob battered down the jail door and took the negro from his cell. He was taken out of the jail, carried to the court-house, a block away and was hanged from the branch of a spreading oak tree on the courthouse lawn.

NEGRO IS LYNCHED BY LOUISIANA MOB

Birmingham 7-11 Birmingham, Ala.

District Attorney Probes The Killing Of Prisoner Held In Attack

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BASTROP, La.—(AP)—The stabbed and broken body of Andrew McLeod, a 26-year-old Negro farmer, Tuesday bore mute evidence of a North Louisiana lynching and officers were investigating the mob action.

No arrests had been made early Tuesday from among the mob, estimated at 300 men, but District Attorney Hawthorn was conducting an inquiry.

The Negro's body was lying in an undertaking establishment where it was taken after being cut down Monday night from the limb of an oak tree on the courthouse square of Bastrop, the seat of government of Morehouse Parish.

McLeod was accused of attempting to attack a white girl early Sunday near Jones, La., 30 miles from here. He was arrested shortly after the alleged attempted attack and officers were preparing to file formal charges against him at the time the mob battered down the door of the small brick jailhouse Monday night and seized him.

Formed Quietly

Witnesses reported the mob formed quietly and grew to such proportions that officers in the town were unable to halt their plans. A telephone pole and a railroad rail were used to break down the iron doors to the small jail and to burst into the cell where the accused Negro was crouched crying and pleading for mercy.

These reports stated the mob went without demonstration from the jailhouse to the courthouse about a block away and hanged McLeod to an oak tree on the courthouse lawn.

The Negro was forced to stand on the top of an automobile while the rope was fastened and then he was pushed clear. It was declared that the first rope broke and the victim fell to the ground where an unidentified man ran up and slashed his throat.

A stronger rope was obtained and McLeod was hanged and then the mob dispersed.

Reports stated that Chief of Police Walton was out of town at the time of the lynching and that there was no night marshal at the jail. Two other Negro prisoners in the jail were said to have pointed out McLeod to the leaders of the mob after they gained entrance. The other prisoners were not molested.

Sheriff Carpenter reported he and his deputies were unable to halt the mob. The sheriff later was said to have aided citizens in taking down the body of the Negro.

Officers said McLeod had admitted he attempted to attack the girl, 19 years old and a member of a prominent North Louisiana family.

Birmingham News 7-11-34 Birmingham, Ala.

The young woman reported to officers that she was returning home from a dance late Saturday night with her escort who had been drinking, when their automobile left the road and she started walking to a gasoline station up the road in search of aid.

She said a Negro grabbed her and tried to pull her through a wire fence beside the road, but that she fought him off and he fled at the approach of another car.

NEW YORK DAILY NEWS

JUL 11 1934

Officials Yawn Over Louisiana Lynching Bee

Bastrop, La., July 10 (U.P.).—Parish authorities showed little interest today in the capture and punishment of a mob which lynched a colored man in the public square here last night.

Sheriff J. F. Carpenter said he recognized no member of the mob. District Attorney F. W. Hawthorne, who told the crowd he sympathized with its attitude, was non-committal.

Authorities explained their inability to recognize participants in the lynchings by the fact that the crowd converged on the square from several towns.

The victim, Andrew McCloud, 26, was said to have confessed an attempted attack on a white girl Saturday. He was surrendered to the mob by three fellow colored prisoners in the unguarded jail.

Mob of 3,000 Gathers.

The crowd began to form in the square at nightfall and in a few hours had increased to 3,000. It pushed over a telephone pole and used it as a battering ram to break locks from four doors.

As the mob attacked the jail, one of three frightened prisoners called out:

"Batter down the side of the building and we'll throw him out to you."

While the mob was ramming one of the doors District Attorney Hawthorne arrived and said:

"I sympathize with your attitude, but I'm afraid you'll get into trouble."

"If you sympathize," a leader shouted, "why don't you take off that straw hat and take ahold of this telephone pole?"

Victim Dragged Out.

Sheriff Carpenter, who arrived with two deputies, tried unsuccessfully to disperse the mob. Entrance to the jail was gained speedily, and McCloud, limp from a beating, with blood surging from a knife wound in his neck, was dragged out, a noose already around his neck. He was lifted to the top of an automobile, the free end of the rope tied to the limb of a tree and the car driven from under him.

McCloud was arrested early Sunday, some hours after a white girl reported an attack. She and her escort were returning to Bastrop from a dance when their automobile ran into a ditch. She started afoot to a filling station. A colored man stepped from the side of the road and started to drag her into the woods, but before he could get her off the road, a car frightened him away.

New York Herald-Tribune

JUL 10 1934

Louisiana Mob Hangs Negro Near Courthouse

Victim Accused of Attempt to Attack White Girl

BASTROP, La., July 9 (AP).—A mob of citizens tonight lynched Andrew McLeod, twenty-six-year-old Negro farmer, who, officers said, had confessed that he had attempted to attack a nineteen-year-old Bastrop girl early Sunday morning on a highway near here.

Officers said there were about 300 persons in the mob. They formed in the northern section of this usually quiet little seat of Morehouse Parish and marched on the small brick jail. With little trouble the mob battered down the jail door and took the Negro from his cell.

McLeod cried and begged the mob to let him live, officers said, but he was taken out of the jail, carried to the courthouse, a block away, and hanged from the branch of a spreading oak tree on the courthouse lawn. The mob dispersed and a few other citizens cut down the body.

SHREVEPORT, LA.
JOURNAL

JUL 11 1934

Negro Assailant of Girl Is Lynched by Mob at Bastrop

Black trung Up in Courthouse Square After Being Removed From Prison.

(Associated Press.)

BASTROP, La., July 10.—The stabbed and broken body of Andrew McLeod, a 26-year-old negro farmer, today bore mute evidence of a North Louisiana lynching, and officers were investigating the mob action.

No arrests had been made early today from among the mob estimated at 300 men, but District Attorney Frank Hawthorn was conducting an inquiry.

Hanged in Courthouse Square.

The negro's body was lying in an undertaking establishment, where it was taken after being cut down last night from the limb of an oak tree on the courthouse square of Bastrop, the seat of government of Morehouse parish.

McLeod was accused of attempting to attack a white girl early Sunday near Jones, La., 30 miles from here. He was arrested shortly after the alleged attempted attack, and officers were preparing to file formal charges against him at the time the mob battered down the door of the small brick jailhouse last night and seized him.

Mob Forms Quietly.

Witnesses reported that the mob formed quietly and grew to such proportions that officers in the town were unable to halt their plans. A telephone pole and a railroad rail were used to break down the iron doors to the small jail and to burst into the cell where the accused negro was crouched, crying and pleading for mercy.

These reports stated thab the mob went without demonstration from the jailhouse to the courthouse about a block away and hanged McLeod to an oak tree on the courthouse lawn.

The negro was forced to stand on the top of an automobile while the rope was fastened and then he was pushed clear. It was declared that the first rope broke and the victim fell to the ground, where an undientified man ran up and slashed his throat.

A stronger rope was obtained and McLeod was hanged and then the mob dispersed.

No Marshal at Jail.

Reports stated that Chief of Police B. C. Walton was out of town at the time of the lynching and that there was no night marshal at the jail. Two other negro prisoners in the jail were said to have pointed out McLeod to the leaders of the mob after they gained entrance. The other prisoners were not molested.

Sheriff Fred Carpenter reported that he and his deputies were unable to halt the mob plans. The sheriff later was said to have aided citizens in taking down the body of the negro.

Admitted Crime.

Officers said McLeod had admitted that he attempted to attack the girl, 19 years old and a member of a prominent North Louisiana family.

The young woman reported to officers that she was returning home from a dance late Saturday night with her escort, who had been drinking, when their automobile left the road and she started walking to a gasoline station up the road in search of aid.

She said a negro grabbed her and tried to pull her through a wire fence beside the road, but that she fought him off and he fled at the approach of another car.

Lynchings-1934
Cases of.

Louisiana

4070

NEW ORLEANS, LA.
TRIBUNE

JUL 10 1934

MOB LYNCHES NEGRO, HELD FOR ATTACK, IN BASTROP SQUARE

N. Orleans Trib
10 July 34

3000 Storm Undefended Morehouse Parish Jail And Break Down Doors With Telephone Pole; Prisoner Beaten, Stabbed And Hanged In Public Square

(By The United Press)

BASTROP, La., July 9.—A mob of 3000 stormed the Morehouse parish jail tonight, dragged out Andrew McCloud, 26, Negro, suspected of attempting to assault a white girl and hanged him to an oak tree in the public square.

Blood gushing from a knife wound in his neck, his body crumpled under a beating, McCloud was lifted onto the top of an automobile. The rope was tied about his neck and the car driven out from under him.

Jail Undefended

The jail was undefended when the mob attacked it. Three other prisoners, all Negroes, were inside. While the mob muttered threats and imprecations, one of the prisoners called from the jail:

"Batter down a side of the building and we'll throw him out to you."

The mob tore down a telephone pole and used it as a battering ram to knock locks from four doors of the one-story brick jail.

It was reported that the Negro was at the point of death when his limp body was dropped off the car.

Sheriff J. F. Carpenter said that he and two deputies arrived during the raid and tried to dissuade the mob, without success. There was no night jailer.

Chief of Police B. C. Walton said that he was "out of town" during the lynching, but returned a short while later.

Prosecutor Pleads

Frank W. Hawthorne, district attorney, made a speech to the mob, saying, "I sympathize with your attitude, but I'm afraid you'll get in trouble."

One of the mob leaders retorted: "If you sympathize with us, why don't you take off that straw hat and take a-hold of this telephone pole."

Sheriff Carpenter said that he failed to recognize any of the mob due to confusion. An informant at Monroe, 25 miles away, reported seeing a group of men returning to that city before midnight with blood-stained clothing. It was said that the mob included residents of that whole section of the state.

The Negro's body was left hanging for half an hour. County officers cut it down and sent it to a morgue.

Arrested Sunday

McCloud was arrested Sunday. A crowd gathered about the jail last night, but the sheriff dissuaded them from violence.

The Negro was charged with grabbing a 19-year-old Bastrop girl and trying to drag her into weeds. The attack occurred 25 miles east of here Saturday night. The girl and her escort were returning from a dance when their automobile ran into a ditch. The girl left the car and started afoot towards a filling station. Sheriff Carpenter said he understood that the boy was too drunk to go himself.

The Negro sprang from the side of the road, threw his arm across the girl's mouth and was dragging her aside when an automobile approached, its lights frightening the Negro away.

The sheriff said that McCloud had confessed to the crime.

New York Evening Post

JUL 10 1934

Mob Hangs Negro Twice In South as Rope Breaks

300 Seize Louisiana Farmer Arrested for Attempted Assault on White Girl

BASTROP, La., July 10 (AP).—A young Negro farmer lay dead in an undertaking establishment today, lpnched by a mob after officers reported he had confessed an attempted attack on a prominent white girl.

Three hundred men hanged Andrew McLeod, twenty-six, from the limb of an oak tree on the Court House Square here late last night despite his cries and pleas for mercy.

McLeod was accused of attempting to attack a nineteen-year-old girl early Sunday near Jones, La., thirty miles from here. He was arrested Sunday and officers were preparing to file formal charges against him at the time the mob battered down the door of the small brick jail house last night and seized him.

Mob Works Quietly

Witnesses reported that the mob formed quietly and grew to such proportions that officers in the town were unable to halt their plans.

A telephone pole and a railroad rail were used to break down the iron doors to the small jail and to burst into the cell where the accused Negro was crouched crying and pleading for mercy. The mob worked without any demonstrations.

The Negro was forced to stand on the top of an automobile while the rope was fastened and then he was pushed clear. The first rope broke and the victim fell to the ground. An unidentified man ran up and slashed his throat.

A stronger rope was obtained and McLeod was hanged. Then the mob dispersed.

Chief of Police B. C. Walton was reported out of town at the time of the lynching and there was no night marshal at the jail. Two other Negro prisoners in the jail were said to have pointed out McLeod to the leaders of the mob. The other prisoners were not molested.

Sheriff Fred Carpenter said he and his deputies were unable to halt the mob.

Girl's Story

The girl tol dofficers she was returning home from a dance late Saturday night with her escort, who had been drinking, when their automobile left the road. She started walking to a gasoline station up the road in search of aid.

She said a Negro grabbed her and tried to pull her through a wire fence beside the road, but that she fought him off and he fled at the approach of another car.

MONROE, LA.
NEWS STAR

JUL 10 1934

CONFERENCE HELD BY JUDGE SHELL, F. W. HAWTHORNE

District Jurist, Prosecutor Have No Statements To Make

TOWN IS QUIET AGAIN

Negro Farmer Hanged For Alleged Criminal

Assault Attempt

BASTROP, La., July 10.—(Special)—Bastrop resumed its quiet ways Tuesday morning after the frenzy of excitement Monday night when a mob estimated at between 1,000 and 2,000 persons avenged an attempted criminal assault upon a 19-year-old local girl by hanging Andrew McCloud, 26, ~~negro~~ farmer of Jones, from a branch of a spreading oak tree on the west side of the courthouse lawn under the windows of the sheriff's office.

So quiet and orderly did the mob perform its task Monday night that many people in the city did not know that a lynching had taken place until they read it in the papers Tuesday morning.

Whether any action will be taken to conduct an investigation into the mob action was not known Tuesday morning.

District Attorney Frank W. Hawthorne, who pleaded in vain with the mob last night in front of the little parish jail conferred Tuesday morning with District Judge J. T. Shell. At the end of the conference the district attorney declined to make any statement. In answer to questions as to what action may be taken, both Judge Shell and Mr. Hawthorne said that they were not prepared to state at this time.

The negro's body was cut down Monday night by deputies of the sheriff's department after it had hung for about 30 minutes. It was taken to a local funeral home. Souvenir hunters had torn the shirt of the negro and cut patches out of his pants.

Sheriff J. Fred Carpenter estimated Tuesday, that damages of about $300 to $500 has been done to the parish jail by the mob. The steel door of the jail was battered down by a railroad rail after a telephone pole had failed to do the job. Three other doors in the jail leading to the negro's cell were broken through by sledge hammers.

The tree where the negro was hanged is directly across the street from a local picture show. It was reported Monday night that several women, who saw the negro hanging on the tree as they stepped out of the theater, fainted.

Battering their way through four doors to reach their cringing victim, the mob tied ropes around his arms and neck, dragging him a block and a half to the yard of the Morehouse parish courthouse and then hanged him to a tree by driving an automobile from under him.

As the negro was hanged from the limb the rope snapped and the victim plunged to the ground, landing on his head. A man rushed forth it was said and slashed the negro's throat from ear to ear, either with a long bladed knife or a razor.

Sheriff Fred Carpenter, who had rushed to the jail, arriving just as the mob was crashing the doors of the prison, attempted to persuade the crowd to give up their plan, but his plea was unsuccessful.

Shortly after the negro's throat had been cut he was again hanged to the tree. His body dangled from the limb about 30 minutes and then the sheriff cut the body down and turned it over to an undertaker.

The negro was arrested after he had allegedly attempted to assault the Bastrop girl late Saturday night on the highway about a quarter of a mile from Jones.

The girl in company with a young man from Bastrop had been to a dance near Jones and were on their way back home when the automobile driven by the girl's escort, went into a ditch. The girl told Sheriff Carpenter that she started to walk up the highway to a filling station a short distance away for assistance when she met the negro, who attempted to attack her. She stated that the negro placed his arm over her mouth to prevent her from calling for help and then attempted to drag her off the highway. She struggled with him and the lights of an approaching automobile frightened the negro away. The girl then made her way to the filling station, where she told the story of the attack and the sheriff's department at Bastrop was notified.

The girl told Sheriff Carpenter that her escort was too drunk to assist her.

The negro was arrested early Sunday morning at his home near Jones and, according to Sheriff Carpenter, confessed to the attempted attack.

Witnesses said the mob began forming about 1 p. m. Monday, and about 9 o'clock they marched upon the two-story brick jail.

No officers were said to have been present at the jail, as a regular jailer was not maintained.

When the mob leaders—said to have been from Jones—arrived at McCloud's cell, two other negroes in the jail pointed him out as the man they wanted.

Seizing the yelling negro the mob led him out of the building, tied his hands together and then bound his arms. Dragging him to the courthouse lawn, members of the mob first looked on the east side of the courthouse for a tree large enough to hang the negro. Not finding a suitable one, the mob then dragged McCloud to the other side where they found a big tree.

Looping a hangman's knot over the black's head, the mob hoisted the negro to the top of an automobile and then drove it from under him. Witnesses said he was bleeding profusely at the throat and was apparently unconscious at the time he was placed on the car.

Other witnesses said that when the black was seized at the cell the other two negro prisoners yelled, "White folks, break this lock and we'll throw him out to you."

The only intelligible words spoken by the victim were "all right, all right," which he yelled as he was being taken from the jail.

As the car was driven from under the negro at the tree his body plunged downward and the rope snapped. It was then, witnesses said, that a man rushed forward and slashed his throat.

A group of young men tied the rope together and pulled his body back toward the limb.

Sheriff Carpenter said he was notified of the mob's action just in time to reach the jail as the mob was breaking in.

"There wasn't anything I could do," said the sheriff. "I tried to argue them out of it, but there wasn't any use. I went along with the crowd and later cut the negro's body down."

Mr. Hawthorne pleaded with the crowd to "let the law take its course," but to no avail.

"I can sympathize with your feelings in this matter," Mr. Hawthorne said, "but you should allow this man to receive his just punishment in a legal way. I'm afraid someone is going to get into trouble about this."

"If you sympathize with us," someone in the crowd is said to have retorted, "why don't you grab the other end of this pole?"

Police Chief C. C. Waldon said he had been "out on a call and at home" when he was notified of the mob's plans. He said he rushed to the courtyard and arrived just as the mob was finishing.

Sheriff Carpenter said that a group of men had attempted to seize the negro late Sunday night but that he had hurried to the scene and "argued them out of it."

Witnesses said the lynching was apparently well planned, as the mob went about its business in a quiet and orderly manner. Bastrop was declared "full of people" during the lynching.

The lynching here last night was the first mob action in this city in 15 years. Citizens Tuesday recalled that in 1919 a mob hung a negro after he had criminally attacked a local white woman.

ALEXANDRIA, LA.
TOWN TALK

JUL 10 1934

NEGRO LYNCHED IN MOREHOUSE

Mob Takes Victim From Bastrop Jail and Hangs Him

BASTROP, La., July 10.—(By A. P.)—The stabbed and broken body of Andrew McLeod, a 26-year-old negro farmer, today bore mute evidence of a north Louisiana lynching, and officers were investigating the mob action.

No arrests had been made early today from among the mob, estimated at 300 men, but District Attorney Frank Hawthorn was conducting an inquiry.

The negro's body was lying in an undertaking establishment, where it was taken after being cut down last night from the limb of an oak tree on the courthouse square of Bastrop, the seat of government of Morehouse parish.

McLeod was accused of attempting to attack a white girl early Sunday near Jones, La., thirty miles from here. He was arrested shortly after the alleged attempted attack and officers were preparing to file formal charges against him at the time the mob battered down the door of the small brick jail house last night and seized him.

Witnesses reported that the mob formed quietly and grew to such proportions that officers in the town were unable to halt their plans. A telephone pole and a railroad rail were used to break down the iron doors to the small jail and to burst into the cell where the accused negro was crouched, crying and pleading for mercy.

These reports stated that the mob went without demonstration from the jailhouse to the courthouse, about a block away, and hanged McLeod to an oak tree on the courthouse lawn.

The negro was forced to stand on the top of an automobile while the rope was fastened and then he was pushed clear. It was declared that the first rope broke and the victim fell to the ground, where an unidentified man ran up and slashed his throat.

A stronger rope was obtained and McLeod was hanged and then the mob dispersed.

Reports stated that Chief of Police B. C. Walton was out of town at the time of the lynching and that there was no night marshal at the jail. Two other negro prisoners in the jail were said to have pointed out McLeod to the leaders of the mob after they gained entrance. The other prisoners were not molested.

Sheriff Fred Carpenter reported that he and his deputies were unable to halt the mob plans. The sheriff later was said to have aided citizens in taking down the body of the negro.

Officers said McLeod had admitted that he attempted to attack the girl, 19 years old and a member of a prominent North Louisiana family.

The young woman reported to officers that she was returning home from a dance late Saturday night with her escort, who had been drinking, when their automobile left the road and she started walking to a gasoline station up the road in search of aid.

She said a negro grabbed her and tried to pull her through a wire fence beside the road, but that she fought him off and he fled at the approach of another car.

Arcadia, La. Bienville Democrat
July 19, 1934

BASTROP NEGRO FIRST LYNCHED IN STATE 1934

TUSKEGEE INSTITUTE REPORTS DECREASE IN LYNCHINGS OVER 1933.

Andrew McLeod, 26-year-old Bastrop negro who was taken from the jail and hanged by a mob in the court house yard at Bastrop last Monday evening, was the first man to be lynched in Louisiana in 1934, according to the report given by the Tuskegee Institute, Alabama negro school.

According to the report, there were six lynchings in the United States for the first half of the year, two less than the number for the same period in 1933.

All the men lynched were negroes in the following states: Florida, 1; Kentucky, 1; Mississippi, 2; Texas, 1, and Tennessee 1.

McLeod was taken from the Bastrop jail and hanged in the court house yard on Monday evening of last week, after having confessed to the attempted assault on a young white woman, according to report.

Nashville. Tenn. Banner
July 10, 1934

Louisiana Negro Is Victim of Mob

Black Suspected of Attempted Attack on White Girl; District Attorney Is Mum

Bastrop, La., July 10—(UP)—The body of a lynched Negro was cut down from an oak tree in the Public Square today. Sheriff J. F. Carpenter said he recognized no member of the mob which stormed Parish Prison last night. District Attorney F. W. Hawthorne, who told the mob he sympathized with its attitude, would not say what action he planned.

The Negro, Andrew McCloud, 26, was suspected of an attempt to attack a white girl Saturday. The mob began forming at nightfall last night and within a few hours numbered 3.000. It tore down a telephone pole and used it to batter locks from four doors.

Limp from a beating and blood gushing from a knife wound in his neck, McCloud was dragged out with a noose already around his neck. He was lifted to the top of an automobile, the free end of the rope tide to a limb, and the car driven from under him.

The jail was not guarded as the parish does not maintain a night attendant. Three other Negroes imprisoned with McCloud were so badly frightened that one shouted:

"Batter down the side of the building and we'll throw him out to you."

The mob immediately went into action. While it was using the telephone pole as a ram, District Attorney Hawthorne arrived and made a speech.

"I sympathize with your attitude, but I'm afraid you'll get into trouble," he said.

"If you sympathize with us," one of the leaders shouted, "why don't you take off that straw hat and take a-hold of this telephone pole?"

Sheriff Carpenter and two deputies arrived and tried to dissuade the mob with no success.

McCloud was arrested Sunday, some hours after a white girl reported an attempted attack twenty-five miles away Saturday night. She and her escort were returning to Bastrop from a dance when their car ran into a ditch. She started afoot to a filling station. A Negro stepped out of the night and started to drag her into a woods. Before he could get her off the road a car approached, frightening him away.

McCloud was said by authorities to have confessed.

Negro Lynched By Negro Mob

Advertiser
8-4-34

SHREVEPORT, LA., Aug. 3.—(AP)—Caddo Parish officers tonight reported the lynching of Grafton Page, a 30-year-old negro [illegible] composed of members of his own race because of an alleged insult by Page to Blanche Abram, 22, a negro girl who had been out riding with him.

The lynching near Bethany, La., on the Texas border, was investigated by Sheriff T. R. H[illegible] Parish, Deputies W. T. Prudhomme and W. G. Faye, and Coroner Willis P. Butler.

Montgomery, Ala.

The officers said that, from evidence they gathered at the scene of the lynching, Page was stripped, his hands tied to a tree limb above his head, and he was beaten to death with pine knots.

A blind negro woman, who lives near the scene of the lynching, told the officers that she heard wild shrieks from the section and that in a few minutes calm descended over the area. No arrests had been made tonight and negroes of the section were reticent to discuss the killing.

Negro Lynchers Disappear When Query Is Started

Advertiser
8-5-34
Montg. Ala.

SHREVEPORT, LA., Aug. 4.—(AP)—A band of negro men who late last night lynched a member of their own race to avenge an insult offered a young negro girl today had merged back into the anonymity of their community with the same stealth with which they temporarily took the law into their own hands.

Authorities who said it was the first case of its kind on record in the South reported no arrests had been made and none was in prospect, but that the affair would be referred to the October Grand Jury.

Scores of negroes living near Bethany, La., 22 miles from here, where the lynching occurred, were questioned during the day and from these a fairly graphic account of what had occurred was obtained. But there was no information on who composed the execution squad, believed to have consisted of about ten men.

The victim was Grafton Page, 30, described as the "bully" of his community. He was seized and beaten with pine knots after he had insulted and abducted Blanche Abram, 22-year-old negress, in an automobile.

The woman's relatives said Page came to their home drunk and forced her to accompany him. Page's car wrecked in a ditch near the town, however, and a band of negroes who had followed the machine then seized him from the wreckage and took him into a woodland. A blind negro woman living nearby reported hearing agonized screams for 15 minutes, followed by dead silence.

When Sheriff T. R. Hughes, of Caddo, and several deputies advised of trouble, arrived on the scene, they found the naked body, over which had been thrown the negro's clothes. There was evidence that the negro had been suspended from a tree by ropes which bound his hands together, and that he had been flailed to death with rude whips fashioned from limbs and pine knots. Afterwards the body had been cut down and left in the woods.

Education-
Teachers' Association, State.

Lynchings-1934
Cases of

Louisiana

4071

SHREVEPORT, LA.
TIMES

JUL 10 1934

ATTACKER IS HANGED, 300 MEN IN MOB

Group Goes About Its Business Methodically; Andrew McLeod, 26, Farmer, Had Confessed Crime

PARISH JAIL UNGUARDED WHEN BLACK TAKEN OUT

Body Cut Down and Taken to Morgue; No Shots Fired as Citizens Take Law Into Own Hands Monday

Bastrop, La., July 9 (Staff Special). — "Judge Lynch" tipped the scales of justice for a few brief hours tonight in this quiet historic little town, seat of Morehouse parish.

And after a few citizens cut down the lifeless body of Andrew McLeod, 26-year-old negro, from the branch of a spreading oak tree on the west side of the courthouse lawn, the attempted criminal assault upon a 19-year-old socially prominent Bastrop girl had been avenged.

Forming in the northern section of the city shortly after dark, the mob, said to have several relatives of the girl among its leaders, moved quietly to the small brick jail, one block from the courthouse.

Had Confessed Crime.

With little trouble they battered down the jail door and took the negro from his cell. He was cringing in a corner, his hands over his head to ward off possible blows. He cried and pleaded with the leaders to let him live. They were as stoical as he was a few hours before when he admitted he had attempted to assault the girl late Saturday night on a lonely road, 30 miles from here near Jones, La.

The 300 members of the mob, without shouting of demonstration walked calmly to the courthouse lawn. A rope was produced. One member tossed the noose across a sturdy limb of an oak tree. Three men held the negro, while two others adjusted the noose about his neck. How many hands were applied to the rope could not be ascertained. Thirty minutes later the negro was pronounced dead.

Mob Is Quiet One.

The mob had little difficulty in fulfilling its objective, it was learned. There is no night jailer. Neither Sheriff Fred Carpenter nor his deputies could be reached by phone during the early part of the night. Chief of Police B. C. Walton said he was out of the city from 7 p. m. until 9:30 p. m., 15 minutes after the lynching.

One witness told a Shreveport Times reporter that the mob went about its organization and objective quietly. It started forming about 7 p. m. and shortly before 9 o'clock started the march on the unguarded jail. There were no whoops or wild, blood-curdling cheers, one resident, not a member of the mob, said. There were no evidences of drunkenness, either, he added.

There were no women members of the mob, but there were many evident on nearby street corners or else "riding around" while the lynching was occurring, it was learned.

Not a single shot was fired, evidence that the lynching had been perfectly planned.

After the negro was pronounced dead the body was cut down and taken to a funeral home.

Rope Breaks Once.

After failing to batter down the steel door of the two-story brick jail with a telephone pole, the mob is said to have secured a railroad rail and accomplished their purpose Once inside they were confronted with a perplexing problem. There were three negroes, all in separate cells. Two of the negroes pointed to the accused and they saw him cowering in a corner.

In less than five minutes they had broken the cell door down with the constant battering of sledge hammers. The negro was trussed up and led through the streets to the east side of the courthouse. The trees did not appear strong enough to support his body and the scene was transferred to the west lawn. Here the negro was placed upon the top of an automobile after the rope was drawn taut and pushed clear, one witness said.

In less than a minute the rope broke and he landed on his neck. An unidentified man slashed the negro's throat before another and stronger rope could be secured, another witness said. He was hanged again. Death was due to both the hanging and slashing of his throat.

To Investigate Case.

Sheriff Carpenter is reported to have cut the negro down after he had been pronounced dead.

It was definitely understood District Attorney Frank Hawthorn will conduct an investigation Tuesday. However, no arrests had been made late tonight.

Officers late today had intended to file attempted criminal assault charges against the negro Tuesday morning. The girl told officers the negro jumped over a wire fence on the highway along the road while she was on foot and tried to pull her through the fence. She succeeded in fighting him off until the lights of an approaching automobile caused him to abandon his attempted assault.

Was Returning Home.

The girl said she was returning home from a dance with her escort when the automobile went off the road. She began walking to a filling station for aid, because her escort had been drinking and was unable to leave the automobile, she told officers.

The negro was arrested Sunday morning and confessed the attempted attack. He was also identified by the girl during the day.

The Jones community was reported aroused over the attack late Sunday and early Monday.

Lynchings - 1934
Cases of

Massachusetts.

4072

EW ENGLAND MOB BEATS MAN TO DEATH

ccused Of Accosting Woman
Victim Is Attacked By 14

By United Press.

SPRINGFIELD, Mass., June 29.— ohn Buldrini, 28, victim of the irst lynching in modern New England history, died today.

He was attacked Sunday and beaten into unconsciousness by a mob f seven men and seven women, fter he allegedly had accosted one f the women.

BULDRINI DIES OF HIS INJURIES

6-30-34

Dist-Atty Moriarty Takes Hand in Probe of Fatal Results of Brawl

John Buldrini, 28, of 739 Worthington street, who suffered fatal injuries in a street brawl Sunday morning, died from a multiple fracture of the skull and associated brain injuries and hemmorhages, it was stated last night by the medical examiner, Charles J. Downey, who performed an autopsy yesterday afternoon. Buldrini died yesterday morning at Wesson Memorial hospital and he had been unconscious since his admittance.

Dist-Atty Thomas F. Moriarty, following the man's death, immediately took a hand in the investigation and communicated with Captain of Detectives Daniel F. McCarthy after ordering the autopsy. An inqust will be held at a later date.

Buldrini was a printer by occupation, having been employed for the past 10 years by O'Malley & Co of this city. He leaves his parents, Mr and Mrs Louis Buldrini; three brothers, Joseph, Frank and William, all of Springfield; and six sisters, Mrs Enis Demaria, Mrs Regina Olando, the Misses Anna, Eva, Matalda and Florence Buldrini, all of this city.

He was a member of Mount Carmel church. The funeral will be held at the home Monday morning, followed by a requiem high mass at Mount Carmel church. Burial will be in St Michael's cemetery.

The Springfield Republican
ESTABLISHED IN 1824 BY SAMUEL BOWLES
DAILY — — — SUNDAY — — — WEEKLY

SPRINGFIELD, MASS.

July, 23, 1924

Monroe N. Work, Director,
Records and Research,
Tuskeege Normal and Industrial Institute,
Alabama

Dear Mr. Work:

Answering your query of July 20 concerning the death of John Buldrini, I enclose the Republican's version of the occurance printed June 30. Inquries of our City Editor satisfy me that there was not the slighest justification for regarding the event as a lynching. It was an ordinary street brawl among a group of Italians; no Negro was involved, and there was no suggestion of a mob being present. The entire party had been eating at a restaurant and got into a quarrel among themselves. You certainly would ## not be justified in including this death in the Tuskegee lynching report for 1934.

Yours very truly,
Waldo Cook
THE REPUBLICAN

Editor.

GMCLC

Lynchings-1934
6
Cases of.

Mexico.

4073

NEIGHBORS LYNCH FARMER

He Burned His Wife, [illegible] They Killed Him

VERA CRUZ, Mexico, May 17.—(AP)—The neighbors of Porfirio Gutierrez, farmer, lynched him today.

5-18-34

He had tied his wife to a tree at their home near Colipa, then burned her to death.

The people of Colipa bound him to the same tree and killed him the same way.

It was the first lynching ever to happen in the State of Vera Cruz.

Lynchings-1934
Cases of.

Mississippi

4058

4058

NEW YORK
WORLD -
Telegram
JUN 9 1934

MOB LYNCHES TWO NEGROES IN MISSISSIPPI

Pair, Charged with Attempted Assault on Woman, Hanged from Bridge.

TAKEN FROM OFFICERS

Sheriff Says Crowd of 100 Forced Surrender—Inquiry Started.

By the Associated Press.

LAMBERT, Miss., June 9.—The delta country buzzed today over the swift lynching last night of two young Negroes for attempting to assault a white woman.

An armed mob of about 125 white men snatched the Negroes—Joe Love and Isaac Thomas—from a sheriff and two deputies. They hanged them from a small highway bridge near here.

District Attorney Greek Rice arrived today from Clarksdale with county deputies, seeking out the mob's leaders. He sought information also concerning the manner in which the Negroes, each about 25 years old, were taken from Sheriff W. T. Haynes, of Quitman County, and his two aids.

Countryside Silent.

For several hours after the lynching the counties of Quitman, Bolivar and Leflore, where the mob arose and maneuvered, were cloaked in silence. No one would discuss the lynching.

Late in the night the bodies of Love and Thomas were found by officers hanging from the bridge, their feet dangling above a gutted ravine. Their necks were broken, but their bodies were not mutilatd.

Officers cut the bodies down and laid them upon the bridge, where they remained temporarily pending further investigation of the crime.

Sheriff Haynes said the Negroes confessed to the attempted assault on the wife of a plantation manager at Sledge, Miss.

Mob Well Armed.

Accompanied by deputies, Sheriff Haynes was stopped by the mob of armed men in fifteen or twenty automobiles, he said today. The mob blocked a bride, overpowered him and his deputies and seized the Negroes. Sheriff Haynes said they could "only turn back," with three pistols against the armed mob of more than 100 men.

Deputy Spidle said one crowd was encountered at Moorhead, "but we out-talked that bunch, and then we decided to change our course and go to Clarksdale."

"I was trying to get the prisoners to any jail," said Sheriff Haynes. "What could we do with only three pistols when they met us at the bridge? There were other mobs back up the road, too."

After the Negroes had been lynched and the mob had dispersed the countryside quieted down and no further trouble was expected.

EXPRESS
DUBOIS, PA.
JUN 9 1934

EYEWITNESS TELLS STORY OF LYNCHING

Editor's Note: Despite the reluctance of witnesses to the lynching of two Mississippi negroes to discuss the event, the United Press found one man willing to describe the affair. He refused to give his name for fear of arrest.

By AN EYE WITNESS,
(Written for the United Press.)
(Copyright, 1934, by nUited Press.)

Clarksdale, Miss., June 99.—(UP)—I saw them hang two negroes last night.

The negroes screamed and prayed, but they died.

Just before they died they called on the Lord to help them.

"It won't do you no good to pray niggers, where you're goin', someone in the crowd shouted to them.

Some of the men wanted to cut the mup. "We better not waste too much time," someone else said, 'cause the sheriff will be along any time."

It was getting pretty dark when we got to a bridge over a small creek near Lambert. "Here is a good spot to get shet of them niggers," a fellow in the car with them said.

We all stopped. There must have been close to 200 men from around the neighborhood. The negroes were thrown out of the car. Ropes were tied around their necks.

They screamed louder.

"Cut out that crying you black So and So's," someone shouted.

One of the negroes was hit in the ear. He fell down.

"Oh Lordy, save me," he shouted. Someone kicked him. He got up, swaying from side to side as if drunk.

The crowd dragged the negroes to the edge of the bridge.

"Push them off," a voice cried.

They were pushed.

Swinging down you could hear their necks crack. It made me right sick for a minute.

The bodies started swaying around, spinning back and forth.

Around and around they spun, sort of like two black tops on a string.

"Shall we cut them down now?" someone asked. "Hell, no," another man said, "leave them up there for crow-bait."

For a while no one said anything. Everybody just stood still and watched them swing. Finally we started movin' away. I went home. I couldn't eat no supper.

I still saw them bodies swinging.

Insulting Negro Slain As He Seeks To Flee

BOLTON, Miss., July 16.—(AP)—Accused of writing an "indecent and insulting" letter to a young Hinds county white girl, James Sanders, 25-year-old negro, was snatched from a mob of armed citizens here late today only to be riddled with bullets a few minutes later when he attempted to escape.

The negro was shot and killed by bullets fired by C. D. Lancaster and John Lancaster after he assertedly made an effort to shoot his way to freedom.

The Lancasters, together with their kinsmen, Wallace Lancaster and his son, had rescued the negro from a group of armed citizens and had taken him out in the woods in their car to question him concerning the purported indecent proposal to the young girl contained in a letter.

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Constitution
Atlanta

Jackson, Miss., News
June 9, 1034

LYNCHING OF DELTA PAIR INVESTIGATED; 2 CONFESSED GUILT

Negroes Taken From Officers Hanged to Bridge;

Quiz Launched

LAMBERT, June 9—Law forces of the Mississippi delta were concentrated today in the vicinity of Lambert in their investigation of the lynching last night of two young negroes accused of attempting to attack the wife of a plantation manager at Sledge, Miss.

The investigators were headed by District Attorney Greek Rice, from Clarksdale, who came here with county deputies seeking the ring leaders of an armed mob of some 125 white men who seized the negroes, Joe Love and Isaac Thomas, from Sheriff W. T. Haynes, of Quitman county and two of his deputies, and hanged them from a small highway bridge three miles east of Lambert.

For several hours after the lynching the counties of Quitman, Bolivar and Leflore where the mob action arose were cloaked in utter silence and no one would discuss the dual lynching.

Late in the night the bodies of Love and Thomas were found by officers hanging from the bridge with their feet dangling above a gutted ravine. Their necks were broken, but their bodies were not mutilated. Officers cut them down and laid them upon the bridge where they remained temporarily last night until plans could be made to dispose of them either through relatives or to bury them under Quitman county auspices.

Sheriff Haynes said Love was from Columbus, Miss., and Thomas was from Carrollton. They had been employed on a Quitman county plantation. They were about 25 years of age.

Officers said the negroes were arrested near Greenwood, Miss., and that on being taken to that city they confessed to the attempted assault.

Accompanied by Sheriff Spidle, of Quitman county and Deputy Sheriff J. E. Summerall, of Tallahatchie county, Sheriff Haynes was stopped by the mob of armed men in 15 or 20 automobiles he said early today after the bodies had been found.

The mob blocked a bridge between Hushpuchena, Miss., and Lambert, he said, overpowered him and his accompanying deputies and seized the negroes and whisked them away "to the north."

Sheriff Haynes said that they could "only turn back," with three pistols against the armed mob of more than a hundred men.

Deputy Spidle said the officers originally were attempting to get the prisoners to Jackson for incarceration in the strong Hinds county jail, but that after they had heard of the mob forming they turned up toward Clarksdale.

One crowd of men was encountered at Moorhead, Deputy Spidle said, "but we out-talked that bunch, and then we decided to change our course and go to Clarksdale."

"I was trying to get the prisoners to any jail," said Sheriff Haynes after the negroes had been lynched and the mob had dispersed.

"What could we do with only three pistols when they met us at the bridge. There were other mobs back up the road, too."

After the negroes had been lynched and the mob had dispersed the countryside quieted down and no further trouble was expected, Sheriff Haynes reported.

First news of the double lynching got out through officers at Clarksdale after Sheriff Haynes had telephoned officers there that there was no need to reserve jail space

Posted at our Plant in accordanc
NRA.

Laurel, Miss. Call
June 9, 1934

MOB BLOCKS BRIDGE AND TAKES TWO PRISONERS WHO CONFESSED ATTEMPTED ATTACK AT SLEDGE

Sheriff Was Attempting to Rush Them to Jail When Overpowered Near Lambert During Night.

(By Associated Press)

LAMBERT, Miss., June 9.—Law forces of the Mississippi delta concentrated today in the vicinity of Lambert in their investigation of the lynching last night of two young negroes accused of attempting to attack the wife of a plantation manager at Sledge, Miss.

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Officers Find Bodies.

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Officers Outnumbered.

"What could we do with only three pistols when they met us at the bridge. There were other mobs back up the road, too."

After the negroes have been lynched and the mob had dispersed the countryside quieted down and no further trouble was expected, Sheriff Haynes reported.

First news of the double lynching got out through officers at Clarksdale after Sheriff Haynes had telephoned officers there that there was no need to reserve jail space for the two negroes as he had "been relieved of them."

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4 White Men Jailed In Slaying of Negro

BRANDON, Miss., July 27.—(AP)—Four white men were jailed here tonight charged with first degree murder in connection with the whipping to death of a 70-year-old Pelahatchie negro.

Constitution

Sheriff Virden Therrill, of Rankin county, who made the arrests, said feeling at Pelahatchie was running high and officers had delayed the preliminary hearing until next Wednesday.

7-28-34

Atlanta Ga.

~~Henry Bedford, known~~ to nearly every white resident of Pelahatchie, was the victim. He was found Wednesday in a woody sector near Pelahatchie, where the whipping allegedly was administered.

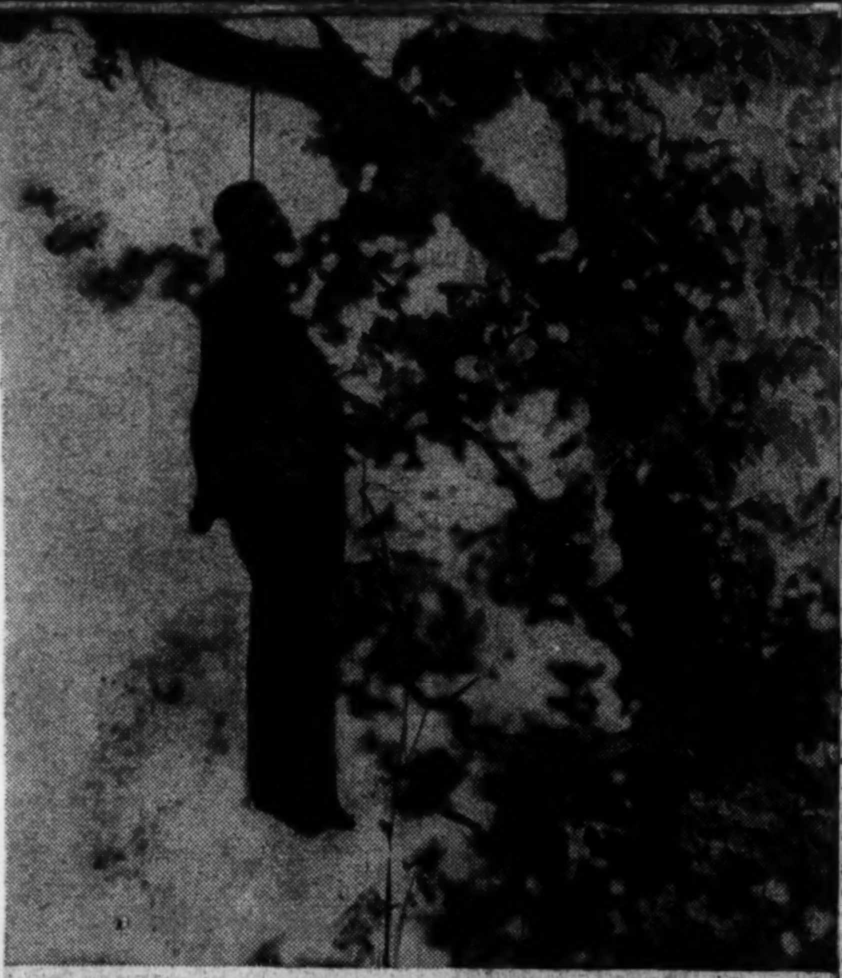
Those under arrest are Alex Murray, John Scales and Benny Cawthorne, all of Pelahatchie, and M. M. Dotson, of Shiloh. All are being held without bond.

Sheriff Therrill said the negro was a tenant of C. W. Cawthorne, Pelahatchie merchant and father of one of the men being held, and that he and the negro had engaged in a dispute over a rental agreement. Cawthorne charged the negro "talked disrespectfully" and the whipping assertedly followed.

NEW YORK JOURNAL

JUN 1 3 1934

Camera Invades Lynching



One of the two Negroes lynched by a mob near Marks, Miss., is seen hanging from a tall tree in this exceptional photo from the Mississippi Delta. The lynching took place after the pair confessed an attempted criminal attack on the wife of a young plantation manager.

FOUR MEN JAILED FOR KILLING NEGRO

Quartet Accused of Beating 70-Year-Old Man to Death

BRANDON, Miss., July 27.—(AP)—Four men were jailed here tonight charged with first degree murder in connection with the whipping to death of a 70-year-old Pelahatchie negro.

Appeal

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7-28-34

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Mississippi Town Resents A Lynching

PELEHATCHIE, Miss., July 31.—This little town is seething with indignation today over the lynching of Henry Bedford, 70-year old Negro, who was brutally whipped to death by a gang of local white men. Feeling is running so high that Sheriff Therill was forced to arrest four of the lynchers and has, moreover, expressed grave fears for their safety.

Daily Worker

8-1-34

Paradoxically, the very instigators and leaders of the lynch terror, the white business men and plantation owners, are the most indignant over the lynching of the aged Negro. But the reason is not far to seek.

New York, N.Y.

Henry Allen, born before the Civil War and the so-called emancipation of the eNgro slaves, had not imbibed any of the revolutionary traditions of the heroic slave insurrections led by Nat Turner, Denark Vesey, and other Negro revolutionary leaders. Throughout his life, he continued to be the ideal slave and, like Charles Houston, N. A. A. C. P. "defense" attorney for the frame-up and basey betrayed Negro worker, George Crawford, had won the "respect" and "admiration" of the lynch rulers. He was considered by local white business men and landowners as a proper example to the Negro masses, if necessarily confined to a narrower sphere than Dr. Robert Moton, George Schuyler and other Negro reformist misleaders, of how they should kowtow to the will and caprice of the white exploiters and oppressors.

Allen's ynching by hangers-on of the ruling class is considered an affront to the white rulers who had afforded him a patriarchal protection in sharp contrast to their increasingly murderous attacks on militant Negro workers and farm laborers.

Lynchings - 1934
Cases of

Mississippi.

4059

TWO NEGROES HANGED BY MISSISSIPPI MOB

Commercial Appeal

Pair Accused of Attack Are Lynched at Alligator

TAKEN FROM OFFICERS

6-9-34

Sheriff Forced to Surrender Men While Returning Them to Marks; Assault Occurred Thursday in Quitman County

Memphis, Tenn.

By The Associated Press

CLARKSDALE, Miss., June 8.—Two negro transients accused of criminally assaulting a woman were lynched tonight near Alligator, a small town in Bolivar County, said reports reaching here tonight.

The negroes' names were given as Snow Ward and Bill Stewart, each about 20 years old, and their residences unknown. They were hanged by a mob of about 50 citizens from a railroad trestle near Alligator.

The assault was said by officers to have been made on a white woman at Sledge, a small town in Quitman County, this afternoon. The negroes fled after the attack into Leflore County and officers of three counties started a search for them.

Deputies sheriff arrested the negroes in Lelore Couny near Greenwood and were apparently headed for Clarksdale to place them in jail heer for safe keeping when the mob overtook tnem over the line of Bolivar County and took the prisoners.

The negroes were hanged to the railroad trestle at Alligator and the mob dispersed. Officers said its members were unidentified.

The two negroes were believed to have come into Mississippi from the Memphis area.

Two Negroes Han For Assaulting W

Advertiser

MARKS, MISS., June 8—(AP)—Two negroes, who, Deputy Sheriff J. R. Spidle, of Quitman County, said confessed at Greenwood today of attempting to assault th[illegible] of a Sledge, Miss., plantation manager, were hanged by a mob near Alligator, Miss., at sundown today.

Two Negroes Lynched By Mississippi Mob

Constitution

6-9-34

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MOB VIOLENCE DEALT TO PAIR IN MISSISSIPPI

Negro Suspects In Attempt To Assault Woman Are Lynched At Bridge

TAKEN FROM SHERIFF

Officers Declare Whole Of State's North Section Were After Men

By United Press.

CLARKSDALE, Miss., June 9.—Two bodies hanging from a rickety woode ntrestle three miles east of Lambert, Miss., this morning gave mute witness to Mississippi justice.

The bodies were those of Joe Love and Isaac Thomas, negroes, lynched at sundown yesterday. The bodies were left hanging all night on orders of Greek Rice, district attorney. An inquest was held at the spot this morning. A verdict of "death at the hands of persons unknown" was returned.

Sheriff W. T. Haynes, from whom the prisoners were taken, said he "failed to recognize any of the lynchers." The case is considered closed, Rice said.

Torn from the custody of Mississippi officers near Hushpuckena at 6 o'clock last night, the negroes were dead an hour later. More than 150 men were in the mob that stopped the officers. They flashed guns, and disarmed the officers.

One of the negroes' ears was chopped from his head, before he died. They had confessed an attempted assault on a Mississippi planter's wife.

6-9-34

Clarksdale officers went to Greenwood, Miss., yesterday morning for the prisoners, and were returning late yesterday to Clarksdale with them.

From dusty side roads, and down the main highways came automobiles bearing the lynching parties.

Sheriff Surrenders

"We want those prisoners," the leaders shouted as they surrounded the car of Sheriff Haynes, containing the prisoners, and two other officers, Deputy J. R. Spidle, and J. E. Rumerall, both of Quitman county.

"We were helpless before the fury of that mob," Sheriff Haynes said today. "When we attempted to argue with them, they became violent, and disarmed us."

Trembling with fear, and uttering piteous cries, the sheriff said, the negroes were bundled into a car by the lynchers.

Returning to Clarksdale for reinforcements, Sheriff Haynes had difficulty in locating the route travelled by the lynchers. Shortly after 1 a.m. today, however, the bodies were found hanging from the railway trestle.

Outwits First Mob

About the spot were evidences of a huge mob.

Sheriff Haynes declared that he got his prisoners safely through one mob yesterday afternoon at Moorehead, Miss., "but," he added, "there was no way to get through the second mob."

The roads of north Mississippi were choked with avengers.

"Every citizen in this whole north Mississippi country was after those negroes," the sheriff continued. "It was impossible to get them safely to jail."

MISSISSIPPI MOB HANGS TWO MEN

Telegraph

Negro Transients Charged With Assaulting White Woman Are Hanged From Trestle

6-9-34

CLARKSDALE, Miss., June 8 (AP)—Two Negro transients accused of criminally assaulting a white woman were lynched tonight near Alligator, a small town in Bolivar county, said reports reaching here tonight.

Macon, Ga.

The Negroes' names were given as Snow Ward and Bill Stewart, each about 20 years of age and their residences unknown. They were hanged by a mob of about 50 citizens from a railroad trestle near Alligator.

The assault was said by officers to have been made on a white woman at Sledge, a small town in Quitman county, this afternoon. The Negroes fled after the attack into LeFlore county and officers of three counties started a search for them.

Deputies sheriff arrested the Negroes in LeFlore county near Greenwood and were apparently headed for Clarksdale to place them in jail here for safe keeping when the mob overtook them over the line of Bolivar county and wrested the prisoners from the officers.

The Negroes were hanged to the railroad trestle at Alligator and the mob dispersed. Officers said its members were unidentified.

The two Negroes were believed to have come into Mississippi from the Memphis, Tenn., area.

Sheriffs Help Lynch Mob to Slay 2 Negroes

Daily Worker

Negroes Murdered By "Persons Unknown," Jury Finds

6-11-34

New York, N. Y.

CLARKSDALE, Miss., June 10.—"Death at the hands of persons unknown" was the verdict of an all-white coroner's jury who "investigated" the lynching of two Negroes handed over to a mob by Sheriff W. T. Haynes and his deputies Saturday morning.

Meeting under a flimsy wooden bridge from where hung the bodies of the two Negroes, Joe Love and Isaac Thomas, the hand-picketed jury completely whitewashed the authorities' handling of one of the most outrageous crimes in the state. Greek Rice, District Attorney, who ordered the bodies kept hanging until hours after the lynching, declared that he "considered the case closed."

Without a struggle, without even a protest, the sheriff had handed over his two Negro prisoners, accused of "attempting to assault a white planter's wife," to a lynch mob of less than 150 men. At the inquest, Sheriff Haynes swore he did not recognize one person in the mob.

An eyewitness, who refused to give his name for fear of arrest, told the gruesome story of the lynching.

"Some men suggested cutting them up because they feared the sheriff would be along. We reached a bridge over a small creek near Lambert when it was pretty dark, and someone said that was a good place to get rid of them.

"The Negroes were thrown from the car. Ropes were tied around their necks. One screamed: 'Oh, lordy, save me!' He was knocked to the ground by a blow.

"The crowd dragged them to the edge of the bridge. Someone shouted, 'Push the blacks off the bridge.' They were pushed . . . ."

N. Y. HERALD

JUN 10 1934

Mississippi Prosecutor Probes Lynching of 2

County Officers Insist None in Mob Are 'Known'

CLARKSDALE, Miss., June 9 (AP).—Hampered by reports of officers that members of a mob that lynched two Negroes last night were "unknown" to them, the District Attorney's office has begun an investigation into the hangings.

District Attorney Greek Rice returned today from Lambert, where he went to make a "complete and thorough" investigation of the action of the mob, estimated to have numbered 125 men.

The two Negroes, Isaac Thomas, alias Snow Ward, and Joe Love, alias Stewart, were seized from officers at Alligator, three miles from Lambert, and hanged from a trestle for an alleged attempted attack on the young wife of a plantation manager near Sledge.

Deputy Sheriff John Spidle, of Quitman County, who was with Sheriff W. T. Haynes, of Quitman, when the mob seized the Negroes, said Quitman County officers did not recognize any of the members of the mob. The Negroes had been arrested in Greenwood.

NEW YORK AMERICAN

JUN 10 1934

MOB LEADERS HUNTED AFTER 2 ARE LYNCHED

Delta Section Scene of Violent Deaths of Men Accused of Trying to Attack Woman

LAMBERT, Miss., June 9 (AP). —The Delta country buzzed today over the lynching during the night of two young Negroes for attempting to assault a white woman.

An armed mob of 125 white men snatched Joe Love and Isaac Thomas, each about 25, from a sheriff and two deputies and hanged them from a small bridge.

LEADER ARE HUNTED.

District Attorney Rice arrived today from Clarksdale with county deputies, seeking out the mob's leaders. He also sought information concerning the manner in which the Negroes were taken from Sheriff Haynes and two aides.

For several hours after the lynching, the counties of Quitman, Bolivar and Leflore where the mob arose and maneuvered were cloaked in silence. No one would discuss the dual lynching.

The bodies were found by officers hanging from the bridge, their feet dangling above a gutted ravine. Their necks were broken, but their bodies were not mutilated.

MOB BLOCKED SPAN.

Sheriff Haynes said Love and Thomas had been employed on a Quitman County plantation. The Negroes were arrested near Greenwood, and on being taken to that city alleged confessed to the attempted attack on the wife of a plantation manager at Sledge.

Haynes said he was stopped by the mob of armed men in 15 or 20 automobiles, who were blocking a bridge between Hushpechena and Lambert. He said they overpowered him and his deputies and seized the Negroes. Haynes said they could "only turn back," with only three pistols against the armed mob.

BROOKLYN CITIZEN

JUN 9 1934

LYNCH NEGRO PAIR CHARGED WITH ASSAULT

Mob Grabs Victims from Deputies, Hangs Them to Trestle

CLARKSDALE, Mass., June 9 (U.P.). —The bodies of two negroes, taken from authorities by an infuriated mob here last night, were found to-day hanging from a railroad trestle a few miles from here.

The two, Jo. Love and Isaac Thomas, both about 25 years of age had been arrested earlier in the day, charged with atempted assault on a white woman.

Police officials, headed by District Attorney D. Rice, found the bodies dangling grotesquely from the bodies shortly after midnight. Rice ordered them left suspended at the trestle under guard, pending an investigation after daybreak.

According to officials, the pair were forcibly taken from the deputies who captured them in nearby Quitman County. As they approached the Clarksdale jail, the mob, infuriated, rushed the officers and escaped with the prisoners.

The prisoners, captured around 7 o'clock last night, were believed hidden until 10 or 11 p. m., when they were hanged.

Officials, admitted that the lynchers had covered their movements successfully, had made no arrests at an early hour to-day. They did not say whether any of the mob members were known to them.

BROOKLYN, N. Y.
TIMES UNION

JUN 9 1934

MISSISSIPPI MOB DISARMS SHERIFF; HANGS TWO MEN

Bodies Found Dangling From Trestle; Both Confessed Attack on White Woman.

By United Press.

Clarksdale, Miss., June 9.—Authorities from whom two colored men were wrested by a lynch mob last night, gathered to hold an inquest today at a rickety wooden trestle near Lambert, Miss., from which the victims' bodies still dangled.

A verdict of "Death at the hands of persons unknown" was expected. Sheriff W. T. Haynes, who had taken his prisoners, Joe Love and Isaac Thomas, safely through one mob, only to surrender them to a larger crowd, declared it would have been impossible to get the pair to jail.

"Every citizen of this whole north Mississippi country was after them," he said. Love and Thomas had confessed to assault a white planter's wife. Approximately 150 men were in the group that forced Haynes to deliver his prisoners.

Officers Disarmed

The prisoners, captured around 7 o'clock last night, were believed hidden until 10 or 11 P. M. when they were hanged.

"We want those prisoners," the leaders of the mob shouted. Two other officers, Deputy J. R. Spidle and J. E. Sumerall, both of Quitman County, were also in Sheriff Haynes' car.

"We were helpless before the fury of that mob," Sheriff Haynes said today. "When we attempted to argue with them, they became violent, and disarmed us."

Trembling with fear, and uttering piteous cries, the prisoners were bundled into a car of the lynchers.

"This is the last time you'll see these men alive," one of the party shouted to Sheriff Haynes as the cars swirled away."

Discover the Bodies

Returning to Clarksdale for reinforcements, Sheriff Haynes had difficulty locating the route travelled by the lynchers. Shortly after 1 A. M. today, however, the bodies were found hanging from the trestle.

About the scene of the lynching were evidences of a huge mob. Attorney Rice, who accompanied Sheriff Haynes to the spot, viewed the bodies.

New York Times

JUN 9 1934

TWO NEGROES LYNCHED.

Hangings Follow Attempt to Attack Woman in Mississippi.

MARKS, Miss., June 8 (AP).—Two Negroes, who Deputy Sheriff J. R. Spidle of Quitman County said confessed attempting to attack the wife of a Sledge (Miss.) plantation manager, were hanged by a mob near Alligator, Miss., at sundown today.

Spidle identified the Negroes as Isaac Thomas and Joe Love and said that they had been employed on a Quitman County farm.

They were arrested in Greenwood, Miss., early today and, Spidle said, confessed.

When taken by the mob the Negroes were being transported by officers from Greenwood to Clarksdale, Miss. The officers were disarmed and the mob hanged the Negroes from a railroad trestle.

NEW YORK SUN

JUN 9 1934

2 Negroes Lynched in South

Hanged From Bridge by Mississippi Mob After Confessing Attempted Assault.

LAMBERT, Miss., June 9 (A. P.).—The delta country buzzed today over the swift lynching last night of two young Negroes for attempting to assault a white woman. An armed mob of about one hundred and twenty-five white men snatched the Negroes, Joe Love and Isaac Thomas, from a Sheriff and two deputies. They hanged them from a small highway bridge near here.

District Attorney Greek Rice arrived today from Clarksdale with county deputies, seeking out the mob's leaders. He sought information also concerning the manner in which the Negroes, each about 25 years old, were taken from Sheriff W. T. Haynes of Quitman county and his two aids.

For several hours after the lynching the counties of Quitman, Bolivar and Leflore, where the mob arose and maneuvered, were cloaked in silence. No one would discuss the dual lynching.

Found Hanged Above Ravine.

Late in the night the bodies of Love and Thomas were found by peace officers hanging from the bridge, their feet dangling above a ravine. Their necks were broken but their bodies were not mutilated.

The peace officers cut the bodies down and laid them upon the bridge, where they remained temporarily pending further investigation of the crime.

Sheriff Haynes said Love was from Columbus, Miss., and Thomas was from Carrollton. They had been employed on a Quitman county plantation. The Negroes were arrested near Greenwood, Miss., and on being taken to that city they confessed, peace officers said, the attempted assault on the wife of a plantation manager at Sledge, Miss.

Mob Blocks Bridge.

Accompanied by Deputy Sheriff Spidle of Quitman county and Deputy Sheriff J. E. Summerall of Tallahatchie county, Sheriff Haynes was stopped by the mob of armed men in fifteen or twenty automobiles, he said today.

The mob blocked a bridge between Hushpechena, Miss., and Lambert, he said, overpowered him and his accompanying deputies and seized the Negroes, whisking them away "to the north."

Deputy Spidle said the peace officers originally were attempting to get the prisoners to Jackson for incarceration in the strong Hinds county jail, but that after they had heard of the mob forming they turned toward Clarksdale.

One crowd was encountered at Moorhead, Deputy Spidle said, "but we out-talked that bunch, and then we decided to change our course and go to Clarksdale."

Quiet Follows Lynching.

"I was trying to get the prisoners to any jail," said Sheriff Haynes. "What could we do with only three pistols when they met us at the bridge? There were other mobs back up the road, too."

After the Negroes had been lynched and the mob had dispersed the countryside quieted down and no further trouble was expected.

First news of the double lynching came through peace officers at Clarksdale after Sheriff Haynes had telephoned officers there that there was no need to reserve jail space for the two Negroes as he had "been relieved of them."

Mississippi.

4060

Lynchings-1934
Cases of.

CLARKSDALE, MISS.
REGISTER

AUG 13 1934

Bands of Citizens in Two Different Sections of Mississippi Get Blacks From Their Officers and Lynch Them

Bands of Citizens

ASHLAND, Mississippi, August 13. — (AP) — Two mobs in different sections of Benton county overpowered officers and seized and lynched two alleged negro slayers early today, Sheriff R. H. Hudspeth reported here.

Robert Jones, one of the victims, was taken from officers who were bringing him here from Tupelo, and Smith Houey, the other victime, was seized from deputies enroute here from Holly Springs.

Concentrating near Michigan City, the mobs hanged Jones and Houey to a tree within 150 yards of the spot where Deputy Sheriff Mark Mason was slain more than a year ago during an investigation of the murder of Connis Gillispie later assertedly confessed by the negroes lynched today.

ERIDIAN, MISS.
STAR

AUG 13 1934

ADMIT GUILT IN SLAYING OF OFFICER

Band Meets Officer Taking One Prisoner From Tupelo To Ashland And Another Official With Suspect Enroute From Holly Springs

BRING TO JAIL TO FACE TRIALS

ASHLAND, Miss., Aug. 13 (AP) —Two mobs in different sections of Benton county overpowered officers and seized and lynched two alleged negro slayers early Monday, Sheriff R. H. Hudspeth reported here.

Robert Jones, one of the victims, was taken from officers who were bringing him here from Tupelo, and Smith Houey, the other victim, was seized from deputy sheriffs enroute here with him from Holly Springs.

Concentrating near Michigan City, the mobs hanged Jones and Houey to a tree within 150 yards of the spot where Deputy Sheriff Mark Mason was slain more than a year ago during investigation of the murder of Connis Gillispie, later assertedly confessed by the negroes who were lynched Monday.

The negroes were being brought from the two jails to face trial for the Gillespie slaying at the term of circuit court convening here Monday morning.

Sheriff Hudspeth said the Jones negro was taken from officers T. H. McDonald and M. B. Pulliam by a group of 18 masked men.

Houey was seized from Officers Jim Wilson and J. J. Autry by a mob of 15 masked men.

Meet Near Michigan City

The sheriff said the two groups converged near Michigan City where the negroes were strung to a large tree.

Their bodies were left dangling when the mob scattered.

Officers said both groups of men were masked, preventing any immediate identification.

The four deputies who had the negroes in custody told the sheriff that the groups of men sprang into the highway in front of their machines, halting them and menacingly demanding that the negroes be surrendered.

Are Well Armed

Both mobs were described as "well armed."

Sheriff Hudspeth said that apparently the lynchings had been planned well in advance and possibly every road leading into the town was believed to have been guarded by groups of angry citizens.

The sheriff had the bodies of Jones and Houey cut down and brought to Ashland. At noon no one had laid claim to the bodies.

"I am going to do my best to find the guilty parties," Sheriff Hudspeth said. District Attorney Fred Belk, here for the opening of court, said, "I am going to see that a rigid investigation is made."

Judge T. C. Pegram in opening the court term made a vigorous charge to the grand jury calling upon them to investigate the double lynching.

NEW YORK MIRROR

AUG 14 19[illegible]

MOB LYNCHES TWO NEGROES

MICHIGAN CITY, MISS., Aug. 1 (INS).—Lynch violence claimed the lives of two accused negro murderers near here today.

Robert Jones and Smith Houey, accused slayers of Connis Gillespie, prominent Mississippi cotton planter, were the victims.

Two mobs seized the negroes from officers as they were being taken by separate escorts to Tupelo, Miss., for trial and hanged them from cottonwood trees.

The mobs blocked the highways and took the prisoners from their deputy sheriff escorts at the point of shotguns. The officers made no resistance.

BRONX HOME NEWS

AUG 14 1934

Mobs in Mississippi Seize and Hang Two Colored Men Who Confessed Slaying Planter

Tupelo, Miss.—Two Mississippi mobs seized two Negroes who had confessed slaying Connie Gillespie, Benton County planter, and hanged them to trees near Michigan City yesterday.

The victims were Robert Jones and Smith Houey. They were forcibly taken from sheriff's deputies in separate parts of the county.

Eighteen hooded men forced deputies T. H. MacDonald and M. B. Pulliam to surrender Robert Jones on a road between Tupelo and Ashland.

Fifteen men threatened death to deputies Jim Wilson and Jim Autrey if they refused to release Smith Houey on the highway between Holly Springs and Ashland.

The officers complied. The Negroes were being taken to Ashland for speedy hearings.

Connie Gillespie, white plantation owner, was mysteriously murdered a few weeks ago and the Negroes allegedly had confessed the crime.

To frustrate lynchings, Sheriff R. H. Hudspath ordered the Negroes brought to Topelo in separate automobiles over separate highways. The route of the motor cars was supposed to have been secret.

The mobs rode quietly into Michigan City with their prisoners cringing. They erected a noose on the outskirts of the city. A small crowd gathered.

A masked man stood on the running board of an automobile, counted "one-two-three" and the Negroes wer hoisted to a limb.

When Sheriff Hudspeth arrived at Michigan City the mobs had dispersed. He said there would be an investigation. He will talk to the county prosecutor about it at the first opportunity, he said.

2 Negroes Lynched By Mississippi Mob; Faced Murder Trial

Commercial Appeal
8-14-34
Memphis, Tenn.

Pair Hanged on Farm of Deputy for Whose Death One Was Convicted

TWO GROUPS FORCED DEPUTIES TO LEAVE

Blocked Highways Near Ashland and Seized Victims

Special to The Commercial Appeal

ASHLAND, Miss., Aug. 13.—Robert Jones, 40, double slayer, and Smith Huey, 35, confessed murderer, both negroes, were forcibly taken from deputies at two points near here this morning at 3 o'clock and hanged from the same limb on the plantation of Mark H. Mason, deputy sheriff, for whose death Jones once had been convicted and sentenced to death.

Both negroes were being brought to Ashland for trial at the opening of circuit court today. Both had confessed, officers had previously stated, that they had killed Connie Gillespie, elderly bachelor grocer last summer, and burned his little stand to hide their crime.

Dawn today found their bodies strung from a tree in a grove on the plantation of Mason, some 11 miles from Ashland, and some four miles from where one mob took Huey from officers and some seven miles from where another group halted two other deputies bringing Jones up from the Tupelo jail.

Use Same Tactics

Both mobs used the same tactics. Partly blocking the roads with cars, and leaving an opening so small that cars had to creep through, the men in each instance boarded the slow-moving cars of the officers and at the point of weapons forced the officers to surrender the negroes.

Without a shot being fired, the two mobs moved through the night over to the Mason grove.

Accompanying Jones from the Tupelo jail were Deputies Thomas McDonald and Marlin Bunyan. They informed officers here today that a crowd of 15 to 20 men, all heavily armed, swarmed over their car as it tried to pass the blockade on Tippah River Bridge on the Hickory Flat-Ashland Road, some eight miles south of Ashland.

At the same time, over on the Holly Springs-Ashland Road, Deputies J. J. Autry and Jim Wilson found a blockade on the bridge over Little Snow Creek, some seven miles west of Ashland. This crowd included some 8 or 10 men, they said, who thrust pistols into the car and seized Smith Huey.

The officers in both instances were told to proceed to Ashland.

The four officers reported that the men in the mobs wore dark masks over their faces and had placed cloth over the license tags on their cars. The officers reported to Sheriff R. N. Hudspeth that it was impossible to recognize any members of the two crowds.

Kept in Distant Jails

The negroes had been kept in distant jails until circuit court in Ashland, where they were to go on trial today, Jones for the second time in connection with Deputy Mason's death. He, with Huey, was also to face murder charges in connection with the killing of Connie Gillespie, who operated a country grocery. These two had confessed to the grocer's murder and had implicated I. C. Jones, a brother of Robert.

Commercial Appeal
8-14-34
Memphis, Tenn.

According to their confessions, Robert Jones held a pistol on the bachelor grocer while I. C. Jones struck him over the head. Smith Huey had admitted, officers said, that he served as lookout at the time. The Gillespie store was burned by the slayers. That was on July 2, 1933.

For weeks the crime remained unsolved. Last Sept. 4, while Deputy Mason was seeking other stolen property, he inspected the home of Robert Jones, but found nothing. As he was leaving, he heard a shot fired and returned to investigate. Another shot was fired as he mounted the porch and he fell, fatally wounded.

Robert Jones was convicted and given a death sentence, but the state supreme court reversed the sentence on the grounds that Jones was in his own home and was legally justified in killing an "intruder." Smith Huey was arrested shortly thereafter and both are said to have confessed the Gillespie murder.

The officers went to the scene about 7 o'clock this morning, took down the bodies and brought them to Ashland, where relatives claimed them from the courtyard.

When court opened at 9 o'clock Judge Thomas E. Pegram, in charging the grand jury, urged them to make a thorough investigation. Sheriff Hudspeth also pledged his aid in ferreting out members of the two mobs.

Prosecuting Attorney Fred Belk said tonight that he had summoned 100 men from over the county to testify in the lynching probe in an effort to identify the mob members.

Belk also said that he had in his possession the signed confessions of Jones and Huey to the Gillespie killing.

Lynch Two

IN MISSISSIPPI—COLORED MEN WERE ON WAY TO COURT FOR TRIAL

The Guardian
8-18-34
Boston, Mass.

ASHLAND, Miss., Aug. 13 (A. P.)—Mobs snatched two Colored men from deputy sheriffs today and hanged them from a tree near Michigan City to avenge the killing of two white men.

The victims were Robert Jones and Smith Houey. They were being brought here for trial for the murder of Connis Gillespie more than a year ago.

The tree from which they were hanged was only 150 yards from the spot where Deputy Sheriff Mark Mason was slain while investigating Gillispie's death.

Jones was taken from two deputies while being brought here from Tupelo, and Houey was taken from two other deputies while being brought from Holly Springs.

The two mobs converged near Michigan City and hanged the Colored men from the tree. Their bodies were left suspended until Sheriff R. H. Hudspeth ordered them cut down.

The mobs were masked and deputies said they did not recognize any of the men. Sheriff Hudspeth said he would do his "best to find the guilty parties," and Dist. Atty. Fred Belk promised a "rigid investigation."

Judge T. C. Pegram, opening the court which was to have tried the Colored men, ordered the Grand Jury to make a thorough investigation.

The sheriff said the lynchings had apparently been carefully planned, with every road leading into the town blocked by mobs.

Gillespie was robbed, slain and his property set afire and burned July 2, 1933. While investigating the killing, Deputy Sheriff Mason went to Jones' house ad was fatally wounded by Jones, who said he had not known it was an officer who was attempting to enter his house.

Jones was convicted and sentenced to hang, but in a widely discussed opinion, the Supreme Court reversed the findings and ordered a new trial.

The high court held that a man's home, however humble, is his castle," and that the officer had no right to invade Jones' property without a search warrant.

TWO NEGROES HANGED BY MISSISSIPPI MOB

Constitution
8-14-34
Atlanta, Georgia

ASHLAND, Miss., Aug. 13.—(AP) Mobs snatched two negroes from the hands of deputy sheriffs in Benton county today and hanged them from a tree near Michigan City to avenge the killing of two white men.

The victims were Robert Jones and Smith Houey, who were being brought here for trial for the murder of Connis Gillespie more than a year ago.

The tree from which they were hanged was only 150 yards from the spot where Deputy Sheriff Mark Mason was slain while investigating Gillespie's death.

Jones was taken from two deputies while being brought here from Tupelo, and Houey was taken from two other deputies while being brought here from Holly Springs.

The two mobs converged near Michigan City and hanged the negroes from the tree. Their bodies were left suspended until Sheriff R. H. Hudspeth ordered them cut down and brought here.

The mobs were masked, and deputies said they did not recognize any of the men. Sheriff Hudspeth said he was going to do his "best to find the guilty parties," and District Attorney Fred Belk promised a "rigid investigation."

Lynchings - 1934
Cases of.

Mississippi.

4061

TWO NEGRO FARM HANDS ARE LYNCHED

Daily Worker
8-14-34
New York

ASHLAND, Miss., Aug. 13.—Two Negro farm laborers, in the custody of law officers, were murdered today by lynchers in different sections of Benton County.

The murdered men were arrested on "suspicion" in connection with the mysterious murder of Connie Gillespie, a white plantation owner, several weeks ago. They were being brought to Ashland, for what law officers characterized as "spedy hearings and trial."

Sheriff R. H. Hudspeth stated after the lynchings that he had ordered the workers brought here in separate automobiles over separate highways. The route of the motor cars was supposed to have been secret.

The deputies' story is that they were "overpowered" by the mobs. The 2 lynch groups, small in number and riding in automobiles, brought the prisoners into Michigan City. They erected a noose on the outskirts of the city. A small crowd gathtered.

A masked man stood on the hunning board of an automobile, counted "one-two-three" and the Negroes were hoisted to a limb.

Sheriff Hudspeth, asked if there would be an investigation of the double lynching, said he "will talk to the County prosecutor about it at the first opportunity."

NEGROES HANGED BY MASKED MEN

Macon Telegraph
8-14-34

Mississippians Avenge Killing of Two Men More Than Year Ago on Eve of Trial

Macon, Ga.

ASHLAND, Miss., Aug. 13 (AP).—Mobs snatched two Negroes from the hands of officers in Benton county today and hanged them from a tree near Michigan City, to avenge the killing of two white men.

The victims were Robert Jones and Smith Houey, who were being brought here for trial for the murder of Connis Gillispie more than a year ago.

The tree from which they were hanged was only 150 yards from the spot where Deputy Sheriff Hark Mason was slain while investigating Gillispie's death.

Jones was taken from the deputies while being brought here from Tupelo, and Houey was taken from two other deputies while meing brought here from Holly Springs.

The two mobs converged near Michigan City and hanged the Negroes from the tree. Their bodies were left suspended until Sheriff R. H. Hudspeth ordered them cut down and brought here.

Mobs Are Masked

The mobs were masked, and deputies said they did not recognize any of the men. Sheriff Hudspeth said he was going to do his "best to find the guilty parties," and District Attorney Fred Belk promised a "rigid investigation."

The sheriff said the lynchings had apparently been carefully planned, with every road leading into the town blocked by mobs.

Gillispie was robbed, slain and his property set afire and burned on July 2, 1933. While investigating the killing, Deputy Sheriff Mason went to the house of Jones, one of the dead Negroes, and was fatally wounded by Jones, who said he had not known it was an officer who was attempting to enter his house.

Jones was convicted and sentenced to hang, but in a widely discussed opinion, the supreme court reversed the finding and ordered a new trial.

Negroes Die By Mississippi Mob

Pair Accused In Slaying Snatched From Officers And Hanged To Tree

Advertiser
8-14-34
Montgomery, Ala.

TWO NEGROES ARE LYNCHED

Birmingham Post

Mississippi Mob Seizes Pair Who Confessed Farmer's Murder

ASHLAND, MISS., Aug. 13.—(AP)—Mobs snatched two negroes from the hands of deputies sheriff in Benton County today and hanged them from a tree near Michigan City to avenge the killing of two white men.

The victims were Robert Jones and Smith Houey, who were being brought here for trial for the murder of Connis Gillispie more than a year ago.

The tree from which they were hanged was only 150 yards from the spot where Deputy Sheriff Mark Mason was slain while investigating Gillispie's death.

Jones was taken from two deputies while being brought here from Tupelo, and Houey was taken from two other deputies while being brought here from Holly Springs.

The two mobs converged near Michigan City and hanged the negroes from the tree. Their bodies were left suspended until Sheriff R. H. Hudspeth ordered them cut down and brought here.

The mobs were masked, and deputies said they did not recognize any of the men. Sheriff Hudspeth said he was going to do his "best to find the guilty parties," and Dist. Atty. Fred Belk promised a "rigid investigation."

Judge T. C. Pegram, opening the court here which was to have tried the negroes, ordered the grand jury to make a thorough investigation.

The sheriff said the lynchings had apparently been carefully planned, with every road leading into town blocked by mobs.

Gillispie was robbed, slain and his property set afire and burned on July 2, 1933. While investigating the killing, Deputy Sheriff Mason went to the house of Jones, one of the dead negroes, and was fatally wouded by Jones, who said he had not known it was an officer who was attempting to enter his house.

Jones was convicted and sentenced to hang, but in a widely discussed opinion, the Supreme Court reversed the finding and ordered a new trial.

The high court held that a man's home, "however humble, is his castle," and that the officer had no right to invade Jones's property without a search warrant.

The District Attorney said he had a confession signed by the two negroes in which they admitted that they killed Gillispie.

8-14-34
Birmingham, Ala.
Post

By United Press.

ASHLAND, Miss., Aug. 13.—Masked Mississippi [illegible]men seized two negro slayers from officers today and hanged them to trees near Michigan City.

The mobs, carrying an assortment of weapons, struck on separate highways, overpowered officers, seized the negroes, converged at Michigan City and quietly swung their prisoners from trees near the city limits.

Eighteen hooded men forced Deputies T. H. McDonald and M. B. Pulliam to surrender Robert Jones on a road between Tupelo and Ashland.

Fifteen men threatened death to Deputies Jim Wilson and Jim Autrey if they refused to release Smith Houey on the highway between Holly Springs and Ashland. The officers complied.

The negroes were being brought to Ashland, where the stage was set for a speedy hearing. Connis Gillespie, white plantation owner, was mysteriously murdered a few weeks ago and the negroes had confessed the crime.

To frustrate possible lynchings, Sheriff R. H. Hudspeth of Benton county ordered the negroes brought here in separate automobiles over separate highways.

Sheriff Hudspeth said there would be an investigation.

'Two Men Lynched By Mob

Defender
8-18-34
Chicago, Ill.

ASHLAND, Miss., Aug. 17.—Mississippi, continuing its leadership in the Great American Lynch league, sent its score up this week when a mob of 50 white men, women and children, took two men from officers of the law and lynched them.

The victims, Robert Jones and Smith Houey, tenant farmers, were arrested in connection with the killing of a white plantation owner a year ago. The white man, Connie Gillespie, was found dead on his plantation in Benton county early in 1933. Later, when a deputy sheriff, Mark Mason, went to the scene to "investigate" the killing of Gillespie, he was also killed.

Houey and Jones were arrested on suspicion of having guilty knowledge of the killings. They had been lodged in the jail at Holly Springs, where they were supposed to be safe from mobs, but Sheriff R. H. Hudspeth was not satisfied. He wanted the men moved to Ashland "for a speedy trial." They were placed in separate cars, and sent in separate directions, both supposed to be known only to the officers in charge.

Shortly after the cars left the jail, the mob appeared on the highway, and, without even an argument, Jones was surrendered.

More than five miles away, a second mob met the car in which Houey was riding, and he was turned over to the men without a struggle. The two gangs then met as if by appointment near the little town of Michigan City where another reception committee awaited. A tree had already been picked out and, as a hundred persons looked on, the two men were hanged. They were not questioned, nor allowed to make a statement. The leader of the mob stood on the running board of one of the cars and gave orders, and a cheer went up from the crowd as the men, stripped, dangled from the two limbs.

Sheriff Hudspeth, who managed to remain safely away from the scene during the actual lynching, arrived shortly after the mob had dispersed and ordered the bodies cut down. He then gave out an official statement that none of the mob members was recognized.

MOBS HANG 2; INQUIRY ASKED

Amsterdam News

Mississippi Lynchers Kill Man Who Got Court Reversal

8-18-34
New York, N.Y.

ASHLAND, Miss., Aug. 16.—While two men were being brought here on Monday for trial for the murder of Connis Gillispie, white, mobs in two sections of Benton county snatched them from deputy sheriffs and hanged them from a tree near Michigan City.

The victims were Robert Jones, who was taken from officers, who were bringing him from Tupelo, and Smith Houey, who was stized from sheriff's deputies while en route here from Holly Springs. They were being brought here for trial on charges of having robbed Gillispie, slain him and set his property afire and burned July 2, 1933.

The tree from which the two men were hanged was only 150 yards from the spot where Deputy Sheriff Mark Mason was slain while investigating Gilispie's death. The bodies were left suspended from the tree until Sheriff R. H. Hudspeth ordered them cut down and brought here.

The mobs were masked and deputies said they did not recognize any of the men. Sheriff Hudspeth said he would do his "best to find the guilty parties," and District Attorney Fred Belk promised a "rigid investigation," while Judge T. C. Pegram, opening the court which was to have tried the two men, ordered the grand jury to make a thorough investigation.

While Sheriff Mason was investigating the killing of Gillispie he went to Jones' house and was fatally wounded by Jones, who said he had not known it was an officer who was attempting to enter his house.

Jones was convicted and sentenced to hang, but in a widely discussed opinion, the State Supreme Court reversed the findings and ordered a new trial. The high court held that a man's home, "however humble, is his castle," and that the officer had not right to invade Jones' property without a search warrant.

Mississippi Has Double Lynching; Mob of 3,000 Snatches Negroes On Their Way to Court For Trial

New York Age

8-18-34

New York, N.Y.

ASHLAND, Miss.—Mobs totalling about 3,000 masked men, seized two Negroes from deputy sheriffs, enroute to court here on Monday and hanged them from a tree near Michigan City to avenge the killing of two white men

One of the victims, Robert Jones, had previously been convicted of the killing of Deputy Sheriff Mark Mason but the Supreme Court in a widely discussed opinion reversed the findings and ordered a new trial. The court held that "a man's home, however humble, is his castle," and that the officer had no right to invade Jones' property without a search warrant.

The other victim of the lynching ws Smith Houey, alleged to have been a confederate of Jones in the murder of Connie Gillispie, who was robbed and slain and his property burned on July 2, 1933.

It was while investigating the killing of Gillispie that Deputy Sheriff Mason went to Jones' house and was fatally wounded when he attempted a search. Jones said he did not know it was an officer attempting to enter his house.

The lynching had been well planned as all roads to the courthouse were blocked. Jones was taken from two deputies while being brought here from Tupelo, and Houey was taken from two other deputies being brought from Holly Springs. The two mobs converged near Michigan City and hanged the two prisoners from the same tree. Their bodies were left suspended until Sheriff R. H. Hudspeth ordered them cut down.

New York Age

8-18-34

New York

The sheriff said he would do his best to find the guilty parties and District Attorney Fred Belk promised a "rigid investigation."

N.Y.

Judge T. C. Pegram, opening the court that was to have tried the Negroes, ordered the grand jury to make a thorough investigation.

New York Times

AUG 14 1934

MISSISSIPPI MOBS

LYNCH 2 NEGROES

Masked Bands Take Victims From Deputies, Hang Them for Killing White Men.

SHERIFF PROMISES ACTION

Will Do His 'Best to Find the Guilty'—Says Lynchers Had Planned Carefully.

ASHLAND, Miss., Aug. 13 (AP).—Mobs snatched two Negroes from deputy sheriffs today and hanged them from a tree near Michigan City to avenge the killing of two white men.

The victims were Robert Jones and Smith Houey. They were being brought here for trial for the murder of Connis Gillispie more than a year ago. The tree from which they were hanged was only 150 yards from the spot where Deputy Sheriff Mark Mason had been slain while investigating Mr. Gillispie's death.

Jones was taken from two deputies while being brought here from Tupelo, and Houey was taken from two other deputies while being brought from Holly Springs. The two mobs converged near Michigan City and hanged the Negroes from the tree. Their bodies were left suspended until Sheriff R. H. Hudspeth ordered them cut down.

The mobs were masked and deputies said they did not recognize any of the men. Sheriff Hudspeth said he would do his "best to find the guilty parties," and District Attorney Fred Belk promised a "rigid investigation."

Judge T. C. Pegram, opening the court that was to have tried the Negroes, ordered the grand jury to make a thorough investigation.

The Sheriff said the lynchings had apparently been carefully planned, with every road leading into the town blocked by mobs.

Mr. Gillispie was robbed and slain and his property was burned on July 2, 1933. While investigating the killing, Deputy Sheriff Mason went to Jones's house and was fatally wounded by Jones, who said he had not known it was an officer who was attempting to enter his house.

Jones was convicted and sentenced to hang, but in a widely discussed opinion the Supreme Court reversed the findings and ordered a new trial. The court held that a man's home, "however humble, is his castle," and that the officer had no right to invade Jones's property without a search warrant.

The District Attorney said he had a confession signed by the two Negroes in which they admitted that they had killed Mr. Gillispie.

NEW YORK SUN

AUG 13 1934

MISSISSIPPI MOBS LYNCH 2 NEGROES

Victims Seized in Different Parts of County.

ASHLAND, Miss., Aug. 13 (A. P.).—Two mobs in different sections of Benton county overpowered peace officers and seized and lynched two alleged Negro slayers early today, Sheriff R. H. Hudspeth reported here.

Robert Jones, one of the victims, was taken from officers who were bringing him here from Tupelo and Smith Houey, the other victim, was seized from deputy sheriffs en route here with him from Holly Springs.

Concentrating near Michigan City, the mobs hanged Jones and Houey to a tree within 150 yards of the spot where Deputy Sheriff Mark Mason was slain more than a year ago during investigation of the murder of Connis Gillispie, later assertedly confessed by the Negroes who were lynched today.

The Negroes were being brought from the two jails to face trial for the Gillispie slaying at the term of Circuit Court convening here today.

Sheriff Hudspeth said Jones was taken from Officers T. H. McDonald and M. B. Pulliam by a group of eighteen masked men. Houey was seized from Officers Jim Wilson and J. J. Autry by a mob of fifteen masked men.

The sheriff said the two groups converged near Michigan City, where the Negroes were hanged to a large tree. Their bodies were left dangling while the mob scattered.

Both mobs were described as "well armed."

The Sheriff had the bodies of Jones and Houey cut down and brought to Ashland. At noon no one had claimed the bodies.

"I am going to do my best to find the guilty parties," Sheriff Hudspeth said. District Attorney Fred Belk, here for the opening of court, said: "I am going to see that a rigid investigation is made."

Judge T. C. Pegram, in opening the court term, made a vigorous charge to the Grand Jurors, calling upon them to investigate the double lynching.

NEW YORK DAILY NEWS

AUG 14 1934

Lynchers Kill 2 Colored Men In Mississippi

Ashland, Miss., Aug. 13 (AP).—Two mobs in different sections of Benton County overpowered officers and seized and lynched two alleged colored slayers early today, Sheriff R. H. Hudspeth reported here.

Robert Jones was taken from officers who were bringing him here from Tupelo. Smith Houey was seized from Sheriff's deputies en route here from Holly Springs.

Two Hanged Together.

Converging near Michigan City, the mobs hanged Jones and Houey to a tree within 150 yards of the spot where Deputy Sheriff Mark Mason was slain more than a year ago during investigation of the murder of Connis Gillispie, later assertedly confessed by the colored pair.

The prisoners were being brought from the two jails to face trial for the Gillispie slaying at the term of Circuit Court convening here this morning.

Jones was taken from Officers T. H. McDonald and M. B. Pulliam by eighteen masked men. Houey was seized from Officers Jim Wilson and J. J. Autry by fifteen masked men.

Investigation Pledged.

The Sheriff had the bodies of Jones and Houey cut down and brought to Ashland. At noon no one had claimed the bodies.

"I am going to do my best to find the guilty parties," Hudspeth said. District Attorney Fred Belk said "I am going to see that a rigid investigation is made."

Judge T. C. Pegram, in opening the court term, made a vigorous charge to the Grand Jury calling upon them to investigate the double lynching.

NEW YORK JOURNAL

AUG 14 1934

SEEK LYNCHERS OF 2 NEGROES

MICHIGAN CITY, Miss., Aug. 14.—Peace officers here pledged themselves today to seek out and arrest the members of two armed mobs which snatched two Negroes, each accused of murder, from the custody of the law and lynched them.

The Negroes, Robert Jones and Smith Houey, alleged to have confessed the murder of Connis Gillespie a year ago, were being taken separately to Ashland for trial.

Two mobs, each numbering nearly a score of men armed with shotguns, held up the escorting parties, took the Negroes and hanged them to a tree not far from the spot where a deputy sheriff was killed during the investigation of the Gillespie killing.

As he was supervising removal of the bodies from the tree where the lynching parties had left them suspended, Sheriff Hudspeth, declared:

"It's up to me to find the this, and I'm going to do it."

Lynchings - 1934
6
Cases of.

Tennessee

4825

NEGRO IS SLAIN; EIGHT ARRESTED

White Men Charged With Murder as Result of Crime That Followed Fight at Dance

Telegraph
6-25-34
Macon, Ga.

MANCHESTER, Tenn., June 24 (AP)—A 35-year old Negro was shot and killed and his body mutilated by a band of white men near here early today, and officers reported the act occurred after the men had visited a Negro dance, where the Negro struck one of them. Eight men were held tonight charged with the murder.

Sheriff C. D. Huffman of Coffee county said that before the Negro, Dick Wilkerson, was slain his attackers went to his home and "tore up everything he had, tore it literally all to pieces."

They then returned to the dance, said Sheriff Huffman, and took Wilkerson and another Negro, unidentified, away in an automobile. Apparently the unidentified Negro escaped.

Wilkerson's body was found early today by two white men living near the place where the shooting occurred. Sheriff Huffman said his clothing had been torn off, that he had been shot three times with a shotgun and once with a rifle or heavy revolver and that his body had been beaten with an axe.

EIGHT FARMERS HELD FOR NEGRO'S MURDER

Eyewitness Tells Of Execution After Dance Hall Fight

Post
6-25-34
Birmingham
Ala

By United Press.

MANCHESTER, Tenn., June 25.—The account of a 14-year-old eyewitness was responsible for eight white farmers being in jail today in conection with the brutal murder of a negro.

Officers, searching for the negro, James Wilkerson, 35, to arrest him, found his mutilated body in an oat field near his home yesterday. He had suffered shotgun, pistol and ax wounds.

Following discovery of the body, Sheriff C. D. Huffman questioned Robert Richardson, 14. The lad told of accompanying eight men who took the negro into the field and executed him.

Several white men visited a negro country dance Saturday night. Trouble followed and a warrant was sworn for Wilkerson's arrest after he knocked down one of the white men.

NEGRO KILLED AFTER HITTING WHITE VISITOR

[illegible]
Nashville
[illegible]
6/25/34

MANCHESTER, Tenn., June 24. (AP) A 35-year-old negro was shot and killed and his body mutilated by a band of white men near here early today, and officers reported the act occurred after the men had visited a negro dance where the negro struck one of them. Eight men were held tonight charged with murder.

Sheriff C. D. Huffman of Coffee county, said that before the negro Dick Wilkerson, was slain, his attackers went to his home and "tore up everything he had, tore it literally all to pieces."

They then returned to the dance said Sheriff Huffman, and took Wilkerson and another negro, unidentified, away in an automobile. Apparently the unidentified negro escaped.

Wilkerson's body was found early today by two white men living near the place where the shooting occurred, about 14 miles southeast of here. Sheriff Huffman said his clothing had been torn off, he had been shot three times with a shotgun and once with a rifle or heavy revolver, and his body had been beaten with an axe.

Included in the band of attackers, said the sheriff, was a 14-year-old boy, stepson of one of the men in the band. The officers reported this boy furnished the names of the eight men who were arrested.

New York Evening Post

JUN 25 1934

NEGRO LYNCHED; SLAPPED WHITE

8 Tennessee Farmers Arrested for Killing After Row at Dance

MANCHESTER, Tenn., June 25 (AP).—A Negro who slapped a white man at a Negro dance has paid with his life, and today eight white farmers were in jail charged with killing him.

Stripped of his clothing, shot four times and beaten with a weapon believed to have been an axe, the Negro, Dick Wilkerson, thirty-five, was found dead in an oat field yesterday by two farmers who lived near the scene of the crime, fourteen miles southeast of here.

A few hours later, upon information furnished by a fourteen-year-old boy, Coffee County officers arrested eight young farmers and charged them with murder. Among the eight, said Sheriff C. D. Huffman, was the step-father of the boy. Three other men were brothers.

Victim's Home Wrecked

Meanwhile, officers had found that the Negro's home had been invaded and wrecked.

Sheriff Huffman said the slaying of the Negro was an act of vengeance growing out of the slapping of a white man by the Negro.

"They had a Negro dance, beginning Saturday night," said the Sheriff," and these white fellows went down there. The Negro hit one of them and that brought on the trouble. I don't know why he hit him.

"Then the white men left the dance and went to the Negro's house. They tore up everything he had—tore it literally all to pieces. After that they went back to the dance and got Wilkerson and another Negro and took them about a mile out in the country."

Second Negro Escapes

The sheriff had no report of what happened to the other Negro except that apparently he escaped.

"The men who killed him, from what I have learned, got him out of the car and tore off his clothes there in the road. They shot him three times with a shotgun and once with a rifle or heavy revolver. They battered his head with an axe. Then they took the body over into a field about 50 or 75 yards away from the scene of the killing."

Man Who Got Slapped

Sheriff Huffman said he thought the man who was slapped was Henry Walls, though he was not sure. The men arrested were: William Peel, Edward Peel, Elijah Peel, Louis Garner, John A. Gibson, Glenn Warren, Henry Sherrill and John Henley.

Gibson is the stepfather of Billy Richardson, the boy who named all eight men.

Lynchings-1934
Cases of.

Texas.

4074

GALVESTON, TEX.
TRIBUNE
JUN 21

NEGRO LYNCHED BY KIRBYVILLE MOB

VICTIM TAKEN FROM SHERIFF AFTER ARREST

Galveston Tex

Had Been Seen in Company of 17-year-old White Girl

Tribune 21 June 34

Kibbyville, Tex., June 21.—(AP)—Two hundred white men las night took Son Griggs, negro, 30, from officers and hanged him after he had been seen in the company of a 17-year-old white girl.

The mop stopped the automobile of officers as they took the negro to Orange for safe-keeping, threw a rope around his neck, dragged him over the lap of one of the officers and hanged him.

Seventeen shots struck him as he dangled in the air. The crowd cut the body down and dragged it over the country behind an automobile then dumped it, nude and mangled near the door of a box factory commissary.

Both the negro an dthe white girl were jailed and when the sheriff's office was warned that a mob was going to break into the jail, officers decided to take him to Orange. The mob met the officers about seven miles from Kirbyville, forced them to drive on and threatened them with guns.

Newton, Tex., June 21.—(UP)—Deputy Sheriffs D. W. Smith and W. E. Davision were ordered by Sheriff T. S. Hughes to spirit the negro from the old Newton County jail last night when a howling mob of men and women gathered outside.

"We told the negro the jail was about to be stormed and that we were helpless," Smith said. "We asked him if he wanted to attempt to slip away and go to Orange with us.

"He accepted gladly."

The negro, crying frantically, was given a coat and hastened out the rear door of the jail to an awaiting automobile.

Smith said that about 27 miles from Newton the road was blocked by a mob of men standing in eight men deep.

They were all armed with shotguns, rifles and pistols, Smith said.

As soon as the auto was stopped, Smith said other men came from the side of the road and the car was surrounded.

"I tried to plead with the men not to take the negro," Smith said, "but they jerked me from the car and took my gun. Davison got the same treatment.

"After they took the negro from the car they told us to get moving. There was nothing else for us to do."

Smith said the negro had admitted attacking the white girl, who is 17 years old.

The negro said he had been drinking and did not realize what he was doing, Smith said. The attack occurred Tuesday night.

The girl told officers she thought she had been drugged and did not know what had happened.

Officers found the negro with the girl near the box factory.

ABILENE, TEX.
NEWS
JUN 22 1934

EAST TEXANS LYNCH NEGRO

His Offense Was Associating With a White Woman

By The Associated Press

KIRBYVILLE, June 21.—A mob of 150 men and women forcibly wrested Son Griggs, 30-year-old negro, from officers, hanged him, shot him 17 times, then dragged his body behind an automobile for hours last night shortly after he had been charged with vagrancy, keeping a disorderly house and associating with a white woman.

Two deputies, G. A. Smith and W. E. Davison, were hurrying the negro from Newton to Orange for safe-keeping when the crowd accosted them 25 miles from Newton, ordered them to drive on but at the same time threw a rope around Griggs' neck. The negro was pulled out of the officers' automobile, across the lap of Smith, and quickly hanged.

The mob cut the body down in about an hour and tied it with another rope to the rear of an automobile, dragging it about the county until after midnight. Nude and mangled, the body finally was dumped near the door of a box factory commissary at Newton.

P. S. Hughes, sheriff at Newton, said the negro and a white girl, also charged with vagrancy, were arrested and placed in jail Tuesday night. He said the negro had been causing disturbances in his neighborhood.

Hughes said he learned early last night that a mob was going to form for the purpose of getting Griggs and he decided to send him to Orange. His deputies started away abut 10 o'clock and were accosted a half hour later.

While Griggs' body was returned to Newton, the girl was held in the women's ward of the jail pending disposition of the charge against her.

Hughes said he had not learned what persons made up the mob, but he planned, with officers from Orange and other nearby cities, to start a thorough investigation at once.

GALVESTON, TEX.
NEWS
JUN 22 1934

NEGRO IS LYNCHED FOR ASSOCIATING WITH WHITE GIRL

Kirbyville, Tex., June 21.—AP—A mob of 150 men and women forcibly wrested Son Griggs, 30-year-old negro, from officers, hanged him, shot him 17 times, then dragged his body behind an automobile for hours last night shortly after he had been charged with vagrancy, keeping a disorderly house and associating with a white woman.

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Hughes said he had not learned what persons made up the mob but he planned, with officers from Orange and other nearby cities, to start a thorough investigation at once.

WICHITA FALLS, TEX.
RECORD NEWS
JUN 22 1934

MOB LYNCHES TEXAS NEGRO

Black Found With White Woman Is Hanged

KIRBYVILLE, Texas, June 21. (AP)—A mob of 150 men and women forcibly wrested Son Griggs, 30-year-old negro, from officers hanged him, shot him 17 times, then dragged his body behind an automobile for hours last night shortly after he had been charged with vagrancy, keeping a disorderly house and associating with a white woman.

Two deputies, G. A. Smith and W. E. Davison, were hurrying the negro from Newton to Orange for safe-keeping when the crowd accosted them 25 miles from Newton, ordered them to drive on but at the same time threw a rope around Griggs' neck. The negro was pulled out of the officers' automobile, across the lap of Smith, and quickly hanged.

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Hughes said he had not learned what persons made up the mob but he planned, with officers from Orange and other nearby cities, to start a thorough investigation at once.

GREENVILLE, TEX.
EVE. BANNER

JUN 21 1934

Mob Hangs Negro Taken from Officers

Black Seen with White Girl Victim Of Mob Violence

Public Service Clipping
Bureau 11-14-35
220 West 19th Street

200 Halt Officers' Car to Riddle Body as It Hangs.

KIRBYVILLE, June 21 (AP).—Two hundred white men last night took son Griggs, negro, 30, from officers and hanged him after he had been seen in the company of a 17 year old white girl.

The mob stopped the automobile of officers as they took the negro to Orange for safe-keeping, threw a rope around his neck, dragged him across the lap of one of the officers and hanged him.

Seventeen shots struck him as he dangled in the air. The crowd cut the body down and dragged it over the country behind an automobile then dumped it, nude and mangled, near the door of a box factory commissary.

Both the negro and the white girl were jailed and when the sheriff's office was warned that a mob was going to break into the jail, officers decided to take him to Orange. The mob met the officers about 7 miles from Kirbyville.

Lynchings - 1934
Cases of.

Texas.

4875

NEGRO IS HANGED BY IRATE TEXANS

Victim Charged With Associating With White Woman Forcibly Taken From Officers

KIRBYVILLE, Tex., June 21 (AP)—A 30-year-old Negro charged with associating with a white woman was forcibly taken from officers by a crowd of 150 men and women, hanged, shot 17 times, then dragged behind an automobile for several hours before his body was dumped near a box factory commissary at Newton, Tex., early today.

Sheriff V. S. Griggs of Newton, said he had not learned the identity of the lynch crowd, but that he planned a thorough investigation at once.

The Negro, Son Griggs, was arrested Tuesday night on charges of associating with a white woman, vagrancy, and keeping a disorderly house. The woman was arrested on vagrancy charges.

Sheriff Hughes said he learned last night a mob was going to be formed for the purpose of seizing Griggs from the Newton jail. Two deputies, G. A. Smith and W. E. Davidson left the jail at 10 o'clock with the prisoner to rush him to Orange for safekeeping.

About 25 miles from Newton, they said, the crowd of men and women accosted them, threw a rope around Griggs' neck, and ordered the officers to drive on. The Negro was pulled out of the officers' automobile and quickly hanged. Seventeen shots were fired into the dangling body. Then it was cut down and dragged behind an automobile and finally dumped at Newton.

NEGRO PRISONER IS HANGED, SHOT, DRAGGED BY MOB

Accused of "Associating with White Woman."

Daily Tribune

Kirbyville, Tex., June 21.—[Special.]—A Negro who had been charged with "associating with a white woman" was taken from deputy sheriffs about 20 miles from Newton, Tex., and was hanged, then shot fifteen times and later dragged behind an automobile for several hours before the body was abandoned in a dump near town early today.

John Griggs, 30 years old, the Negro, had been arrested last Tuesday night on the charge of associating with the white woman. Sherif Tom Hughes of Newton said that he had learned that a group of persons had planned to storm the jail where the Negro was being held to seize him and in order to prevent this he ordered two deputies to take the prisoner to the lockup at Orange, Tex. more than a score of miles away.

Crowd Accosts Officers.

Deputies G. A. Smith and W. E. Davidson left the Newton jail with their prisoner for Orange at 10 o'clock last night. About 20 miles from town a crowd of more than 150 persons, armed with revolvers, forced the deputies to surrender their prisoner.

A rope was thrown around the Negro's neck and he was hoisted to a nearby tree. While he was dangling from the tree the lynchers fired their revolvers into his body.

Dragged Behind Auto.

When they were certain that their victim was dead the lynchers cut his body down and tied it to the rear of an automobile and dragged it around the county during the night. It was found nude and mangled this morning in a box factory dump near Newton.

Sherif Hughes said today that he had not learned the identity of the lynch crowd but that he was conducting a thorough investigation.

The girl, who was arrested with Griggs, is being held in the Newton jail pending disposition of charges against her.

ANS LYNCH NEGRO EN WITH WHITE GIRL

6-22-34

KIRBYVILLE, Texas, June 21.—Two hundred white men last night took Son Griggs, negro, 30, from officers and hanged him after he had been seen in the company of a 17-year-old white girl.

The mob stopped the automobile of officers as they were taking the negro to Orange for safekeeping, threw a rope around his neck, dragged him away and hanged him.

Seventeen shots struck him as he dangled in the air. The crowd cut the body down and dragged it over the country behind an automobile then dumped it, nude and mangled, near the door of a box factory commissary.

Both the negro and the white girl were jailed and when the sheriff's office was warned that a mob was going to break into the jail, officers decided to take him to Orange. The mob met the officers about seven miles from Kirbyville.

NEGRO IS LYNCHED IN TEXAS VILLAGE

Body, Filled With Pistol Bullets, Is Dragged About County Behind Automobile

KIRBYVILLE, TEXAS, June 21.—(AP)—A 30-year-old negro charged with associating with a white woman was forcibly taken from officers by a crowd of 150 men and women, hanged, shot 17 times, then dragged behind an automobile for several hours before his body was dumped near a box factory commissary at Newton, Texas, early today.

Sheriff V. S. Hughes, of Newton, said he had not learned the identity of the lynch crowd, but that he planned a thorough investigation at once.

The negro, Son Griggs, was arrested Tuesday night on charges of associating with a white woman, vagrancy, and keeping a disorderly house. The woman was arrested on vagrancy charges.

Sheriff Hughes said he learned last night a mob was going to be formed for the purpose of seizing Griggs from the Newton jail. Two deputies, G. A. Smith and W. E. Davidson, left the jail at 10 o'clock with the prisoner to rush him to Orange for safekeeping.

About 25 miles from Newton, they said, the crowd of men and women accosted them, threw a rope around Griggs's neck and ordered the officers to drive on. The negro was pulled out of the officers' automobile, across the lap of Smith, and quickly hanged. Seventeen shots were fired into the dangling body.

The crowd cut the body down in about an hour, and tied it with another rope to the rear of an automobile, dragging it about the county until after midnight. Nude and mangled, the body finally was dumped near the door of a box factory commissary at Newton.

While Griggs's body was returned to Newton, the girl was held in the women's ward of the jail pending disposition of the charge against her.

Negro Who Walked With White Girl Lynched, in Texas

Daily Worker

Sheriff Hands Prisoner Over to Mob of 200 Who Stop Auto

6-22-34

KIRBYVILLE, Texas, June 21.—Sheriffs today handed over a Negro boy, Son Grigg, to a mob of white lynchers who tied a rope around his neck, hung him to a tree and fired 17 bullets into his suspended body.

Grigg had been arrested after he had been seen walking with a white girl.

After the Negro was lynched, his body was tied to an automobile and dragged on the road for miles.

The officers say 200 men stopped their car seven miles from Kirbyville and at the point of guns forced them to give up their prisoner. They say they were taking Grigg to another jail for "safe-keeping," after they had been warned a lynch mob was forming.

Texas Girl Fails to Shout "Rape"; Youth Lynched

Defender 6-30-34
Chicago, Ill

By J. WINSTON HARRINGTON

KIRBYVILLE, Tex., June 29.—"ASSOCIATING WITH A WHITE WOMAN!" That was the charge Sheriff Tom Hughes places against John Griggs, a young student when he arrested him last Tuesday. And that was the only charge against him when a crowd cf white citizens of Jasper county, aided by Deputies G. A. Smith and W. E. Davidson, lynched him Thursday.

The lynching was particularly vicious and barbarous. This, apparently, because the girl involved, Miss Ada Lake, a student in one of the Texas colleges, declared that there was nothing wrong in her "associating with Griggs," and would not promise to give up the association.

Sheriff Leads Mob

"We'll learn you not to talk to our women," the sheriff was quoted as having said before he turned Griggs over to the mob. After holding Griggs in the Newton jail for almost a week, it was found that he was too safe for the mob, so he was sent to another jail for "safe keeping." But, as planned, he never reached the other jail. At the appointed place, just a few miles out of town, the mob met the two deputies and, without a struggle or cross word, received the prisoner.

He was immediately hanged to the nearest tree, and when he refused to say he was sorry, or shout for mercy, his body was riddled with bullets. He died without making a sound. Still not satisfied at this, however, Griggs was cut down, his body tied behind a car, and for two hours dragged through the streets of Kirbyville, where everyone had a chance to see not only the gruesome spectacle, but

to identify the drivcer of the car.

In spite of this fact, the sheriffs and their deputies have given out the statement that they identified no member of the mob, but are making an "investigation." It is a known fact that there are less than 2,000 people in Kirbyville, and most of them were in the mob—but the

cannot identify them.

Woman In Jail

In the meantime, Miss Lake is being held in jail. She was told first that she would be released if she would say that Griggs attacked her, but this she refused to do, and so they are trying to decide what to do with her. She has stated openly that if she is released, she will turn the matter over to the Federal authorities, and demand that something be done about the case. But it is openly stated here that she will not be freed.

A white woman may associate with a dog in Texas and both win medals, but if she voluntarily speaks to a "Negro," both are subject to arrest and lynching. That seems to be the new order of the day.

NEW YORK DAILY NEWS

JUN 22 1934

Colored Man Lynched; Squired White Woman

Kirbyville, Tex., June 21 (AP).—A 30-year-old colored man charged with associating with a white woman, was forcibly taken from officers by a crowd of 150 men and women, hanged, shot seventeen times, then dragged behind an automobile for several hours before his body was dumped near a box factory commissary at Newton, Tex., early today.

Sheriff P. S. Hughes of Newton said he had not learned the identity of the lynch crowd, but that he planned to start a thorough investigation at once, assisted by officers from nearby cities.

The victim, Son Griggs, was arrested Tuesday night on charges of associating with a white woman, vagrancy and keeping a disorderly house. The woman was arrested on vagrancy charges.

Sheriff Hughes said he learned last night a mob was going to be formed for the purpose of seizing Griggs from the Newton jail. Two deputies, G. A. Smith and W. E. Davidson, left the jail at 10 o'clock with the prisoner to rush him to Orange for safekeeping.

OKLA.
ARK.
RED R.
Ft. Worth
LA.
SABINE R.
TEXAS
KIRBYVILLE
A
Houston
San Antonio
Galveston
GULF of MEXICO

Kirbyville (A), where lynching was staged.

About twenty-five miles from Newton, they said, the crowd of men and women accosted them, threw a rope around Griggs' neck, and ordered the officers to drive on. The man was pulled out of the officers' automobile, across the lap of Smith, and hanged.

MARSHALL, TEX.
MESSENGER

JUN 21 1934

NEGRO LYNCHED NEAR NEWTON BY MOB OF 200

Black Charged with Attacking White Girl Taken From Officers

Newton, Tex., June 21. (UP).—A 38-year-old negro charged with attacking a young white girl here, was lynched last night by a mob of 200 armed men who over-powered two deputy sheriffs taking the victim to Orange, Tex., for safe keeping.

The nude body of the negro, John Griggs, was found at 2 a. m. today in front of a box factory where he worked. He had been hanged.

The deputies were halted on the highway 27 miles south of here. The officers were disarmed and a noose was thrown around the negro's neck as he sat in the officers' car.

The negro was jerked from the car. The officers were told to "get going." They said they drove away immediately.

Deputy Sheriffs D. W. Smith and W. E. Davision were ordered by Sheriff T. S. Hughes to spirit the negro from the old Newton county jail last night when a howling mob of men and women gathered outside.

"We told the negro the jail was about to be stormed and that we were helpless," Smith said. "We asked him if he wanted to attempt to slip away and go to Orange with us.

"He accepted gladly."

The negro, crying frantically, was given a coat and hastened out the rear door of the jail to an awaiting automobile.

Smith said that about 27 miles from Newton the road was blocked by a mob of men standing eight men deep.

They were all armed with shotguns, rifles and pistols, Smith said.

As soon as the auto was stopped, Smith said other men came from the side of the road and the car was surrounded.

"I tried to plead with the men not to take the negro," Smith said, "but they jerked me from the car and took my gun. Davison got the same treatment.

"After they took the negro from the car they told us to get moving. There was nothing else for us to do."

Smith said the negro had admitted attacking the while girl, who is 17 years old.

The negro said he had been drinking and did not realize what he was doing, Smith said. The attack occurred Tuesday night.

The girl told officers she thought she had been drugged and did not know what had happened.

Officers found the negro with the girl near the box factory.

There was no sign of a mob or even a small gathering around the jail building today. Conversation about the happenings of the preceding night was not even heard around street corners.

NEWS

Pampa, Tex

JUN 21 1934

BODY DRAGGED BEHIND AUTO--GIRL JAILED

BLACK SEIZED WHILE BEING MOVED TO ANOTHER JAIL

KIRBYVILLE, June 21, (AP)—Two hundred white men last night took Son Griggs, negro, 30, from officers and hanged him after he had been seen in the company of a 17-year-old white girl.

The mob stopped the automobile of officers as they took the negro to Orange for safe-keeping, threw a rope around his neck, dragged him over the lap of one of the officers and hanged him.

Seventeen shots struck him as he dangled in the air. The crowd cut the body down and dragged it over the country behind an automobile then dumped it, nude and mangled, near the door of a box factory commissary.

Both the negro and the white girl were jailed and when the sheriff's office was warned that a mob was going to break into the jail, officers decided to take him to Orange. The mob met the officers about seven miles from Kirbyville.

The negro had been held a day on charges of vagrancy, keeping a disorderly house and making insulting remarks to a woman. The woman was charged with vagrancy.

ENNIS, TEX.
NEWS

JUN 21 [illegible]

East Texas Negro Lynched By Mob White Girl Jailed

Kirbyville, Texas, June 21.—Two hundred white men last night took Son Griggs, negro, 30, from officers and hanged him after he had been seen in the company of a 17-year-old white girl.

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Lynchings-1934
Cases of.

Texas.

4076

GREENVILLE, TEX.
HERALD

JUN 22 1934

Mob Lynches Negro Near Kirbyville; Texas

Kirbyville, Texas, June 21.—(AP)—A mob of 150 men and women forcibly wrested Son Griggs, 30-year-old negro, from officers, hanged him, shot him 17 times then dragged his body behind an automobile for hours last night shortly after he had been charged with vagrancy, keeping a disorderly house and associating with a white woman.

Two deputies, G. A. Smith and W. E. Davison, were taking the negro from Newton to Orange for safekeeping when the crowd accosted them 25 miles from Newton, ordered them to drive on, but at the same time threw a rope around his neck. Griggs was pulled out of the officers' automobile, sliding across the lap of Smith, and quickly hanged.

The mob cut the body down in about an hour and tied it with another rope to the rear of an automobile, dragging it about the county until after midnight. Nude and mangled, the body finally was dumped near the door of a box factory commissary at Newton.

P. S. Hughes, sheriff at Newton, said the negro and white girl, also charged with vagrancy were arrested and placed in jail Tuesday night. He said the negro had been causing disturbances in his neighborhood.

Hughes said he learned early last night that a mob was going to form for the purpose of getting Griggs and he decided to send him to Orange.

His deputies started away about 10 o'clock and were accosted a half hour later.

While Griggs' body was returned to Newton, the girl was held in the ladies' ward of the jail pending disposition of the charge against her.

Hughes said he had not learned what persons made up the mob, but he planned, with officers from Orange and other nearby cities, to start a thorough investigation at once.

MARSHALL, TEX
NEWS

JUN 22 1934

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The nude body of the negro, John Griggs, was found at 2 a. m. today in front of a box factory where he worked. He had been hanged.

The deputies were halted on the highway 27 miles south of here. The officers were disarmed and a noose was thrown around the negro's neck as he sat in the officers' car.

Smith said the negro had admitted attacking the while girl, who is 17 years old.

The negro said he had been drinking and did not realize what he was doing, Smith said. The attack occurred Tuesday night.

The girl told officers she thought he had been drugged and did not know what had happened.

Officers found the negro with the girl near the box factory.

SAN BENITO, TEX.
LIGHT

JUN 21 1934

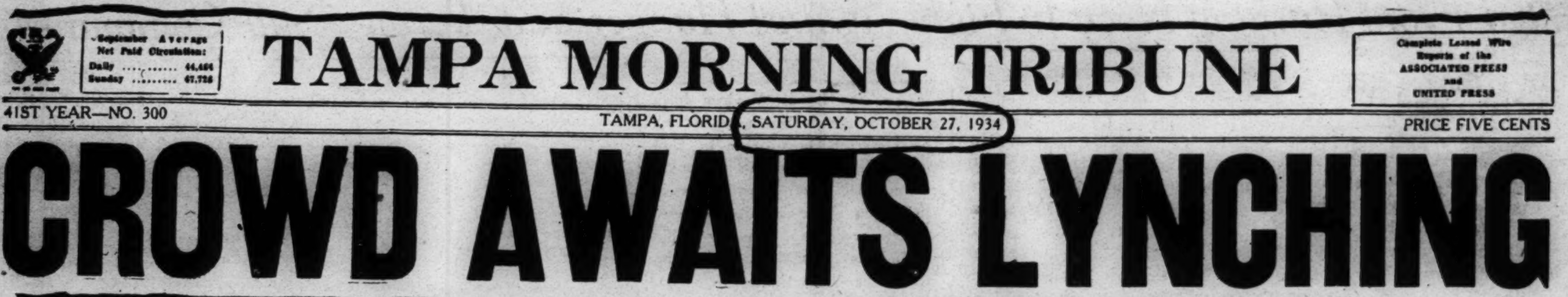
HANGED IN FRONT OF BOX FACTORY WHERE EMPLOYED

Taken From Officers Seeking To Spirit Negro To Orange Jail.

NEWTON, Tex., June 21 (UP)—The body of John Griggs, negro who is charged with attacking a seventeen year old white girl was found, hanging in front of the box factory where he had been employed.

Griggs who was 38 years old, was lynched last night by a mob of two hundred who overtook deputies seeking to spirit the negro to the Orange jail for safekeeping, and dragged Griggs from the car with a rope around his neck. The mob then forced officers to drive on, returned to Newton and hanged the negro.

F, whole page



September Average Net Paid Circulation:
Daily 44,464
Sunday 47,726

TAMPA MORNING TRIBUNE

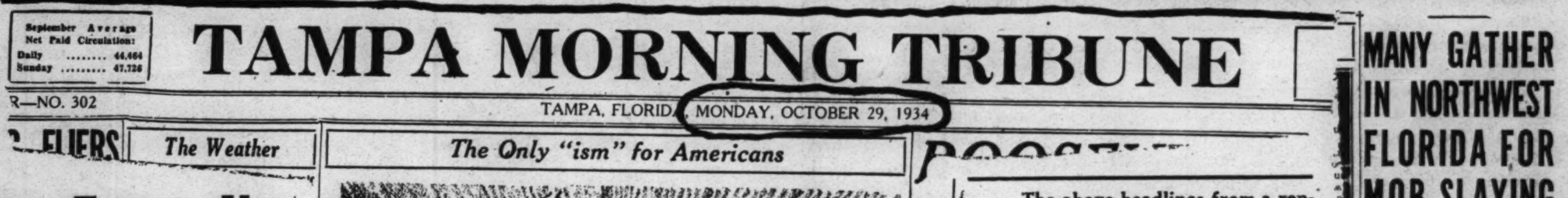
Complete Leased Wire Reports of the ASSOCIATED PRESS and UNITED PRESS

41ST YEAR—NO. 300

TAMPA, FLORIDA, SATURDAY, OCTOBER 27, 1934

PRICE FIVE CENTS

CROWD AWAITS LYNCHING



September Average Net Paid Circulation:
Daily 44,464
Sunday 47,726

TAMPA MORNING TRIBUNE

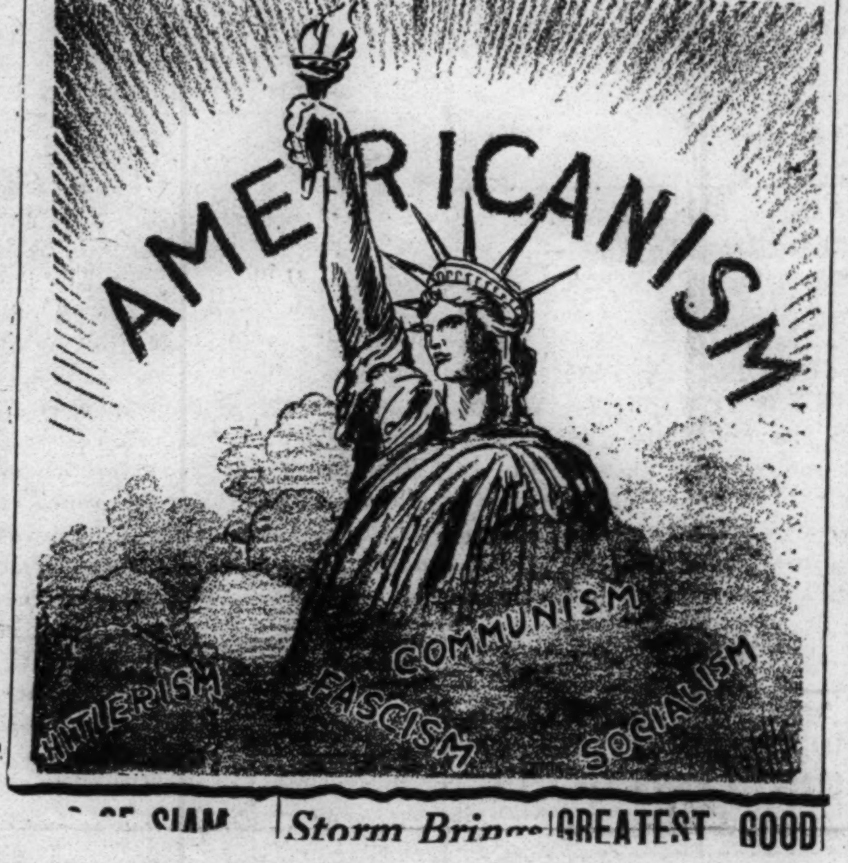
NO. 302

TAMPA, FLORIDA, MONDAY, OCTOBER 29, 1934

The Weather

MANY GATHER IN NORTHWEST FLORIDA FOR MOB SLAYING

The Only "ism" for Americans



The above headlines from a representative boss paper, speak for themselves. Invitation to the planned lynching on Saturday. Lynching in time for the murderers to go to church Sunday morning. Wave a flag andyell "RedScare" on Monday to cover up.

This is boss "Americanism"—lynching of Negroes and murder for all workers.

Particularly to the white toilers of the South, we say: You must stop these boss-led lynchings as part of your struggle against the starvation differential, murder of strikers, and for your own freedom from hunger and oppression.

Rape Frame - Ups Sweep South

LYNCH PAPERS INCITE

BIRMINGHAM, Ala.— Another fake "rape" case which might have claimed some Negro worker as a victim, collapsed within a week after Birmingham newspapers failed in an attempt to whip up a lynch frenzy over the story of Mrs. Mabel Roy, 18-year-old resident of a rooming house in the red light district on North 25th street.

Her slashed head, she finally admitted, was the result of a brawl at a drinking party, but she refused to tell who really hit her. Her first story, told under sccreaming front page headlines in the **Birmingham News**, reputed to be the 'unofficial' organ of the T. C. I., "Woman Is Terrorized By Negro," claimed that a Negro had hit her and attacked her, held her captive for hours, and threatened her with death.

That he was "one of the Scottsboro boys," who escaped from the train at Paint Rock more than three years ago, was also a featured part of the **News'** story, while the notice of Mrs. Roy's admission that she lied was hidden away on an inside page of the paper, in small type.

Oral Confession Claimed

NASHVILLE, Tenn. — E. K. Harris, 22-year-old Negro youth, was arrested in Shelbville, Bedford county, for having "attempted to attack" a 14-year-old white girl. Stock Valley school.

A mob was quickly organized about the city hall at Murfreesboro, Tenn., where young Harris was taken by the police for "safekeeping."

At Murfreesboro, Sheriff W. F. McCrary of Rutherford county, announced that he had a signed confession from young Harris admitting the attempted attack, but stating that he released the girl when she resisted him and began to scream.

Virginia Mob Formed

CLIFTON FORGE, Va.— Four young Negroes were immediately siezed and the usual lynch hysteria is being drummed up, upon the discovery of the bodies of two children with their heads crushed by heavy blows in the woods near here early one morning.

Here, too, a "confession" is claimed made by Jones, though the Sheriff has been unable to produce any signed statement. The prisoner is being kept in Richmond.

Roosevelt Govt. Refuses Enforce Law Against Organized Kidnap Lynch Gang

Refusing to take any action to enforce state laws against murder and mob violence, or the federal kidnapping law, Attorney General Cummings, and Governors B. M. Miller of Alabama, and Dave Sholtz of Florida, have in this way given their O. K. to the brutal, planned torture and lynch murder of Claude Neal at Marianna, Florida, after he had been handed over to an organized mob at Brewton, Alabama.

Grand juries called in both states are trying to whitewash the whole affair and hush up evidence which proves that Neal was absolutely innocent of any crime. Telegrams sent to Cummings, Sholtz and Miller by the Southern Worker, demanding that they openly state what they intend to do to enforce the laws they are sworn to uphold, have not been answered. **(Note: As we go to press we receive a letter from Gov. Sholz' secretary claiming they're doing everything possible to bring the guilty parties to "justice," but refusing to answer the direct questions of the Southern Worker as to whether the responsible sheriff and deputies will be indicted and prosecuted, etc.)**

Although advertised in scores of boss newspapers 36 hours in advance, Gov. Sholtz of Florida refused to send troops to the scene. After the lynching, although he pretended to call a grand jury investigation, he absolved Sheriff Chambliss of all blame even before the jury met. In fact, there are many workers and farmers who believe that some members of the investigating jury had a part in the lynch activities themselves, while reports indicate that sheriffs' deputies were on the spot when the torture and killing took place.

In the telegram to Attorney General Cummings, in Washington, the **Southern Worker** pointed out that the "Lindbergh" kidnapping law empowers the government to act against Neal's kidnappers, since he was transported across a state line. The Roosevelt Democratic government, although it makes an awful fuss and spends thousands of dollars to track down anyone who might try to get a few thousand dollars out of some millionnaire in this way, stands back and winks when it is a matter of a worker and a Negro, kidnapped not for money, but for his life.

That this lynching of Claude Neal, young Negro toiler, was well planned and organized with the apparent approval of the officials, is evident from a whole series of facts, from the efficient leadership of a committee of six, and the quick delivery of Neal to the gang from the Alabama jail to the hoisting of his mangled body right on the courthouse lawn at Marianna.

The Jackson county grand jury (Florida) found the crime had been committed by "persons unknown," while the meeting of the Escambia county jury (Alabama) was delayed almost a month at the order of Gov. Miller. Neal had been accused of "rape," the old frame-up cry used by the ruling class. This lynching, the high point of a wave of such frame-ups sweeping the country, came just at the time when big relief cuts are being made in every state.

K.K.K., Cops Unite In Terror

WHITE WORKER GETS THREAT, ATTEMPT STOP STRUGGLE

BIRMINGHAM, Ala.—Continuing their sneaking, anti-union drive, Klansmen have been busy writing threatening notes to white and Negro workers active in the struggles for better conditions. A white worker, active in the preparations for a large southern movement to take part in the Natl. Congress for Unemployment and Social Insurance, which will meet in Washington, Jan. 5, received this letter:

"We have information to the effect that you are lolling around down town and away from home. We demand of you that at once it be stopped and that you discontinue the practice of lolling around and doing nothing towards trying to get work.

"We say again that this be stopped and unless it is stopped we will take immediate recourse to our ability to handle you.

"Don't let us have to take immediate action, which will be taken and without delay if your lolling is not stopped.

"We are the 3-K."

"I am a worker, for the working class of people, against the rich bosses," this white worker writes, enclosing a copy of this letter. "They do not want me to carry on my work, so they dropped me a few lines. It does not mention anything about my work to organize my fellow workers to better our conditions.

"I want to get a copy of it wrote up in the Southern Worker.

Workers in the neighborhood, white and colored, have become aroused and have pledged to rally for defense against any Klan attack. "Tell those ———(!) that we're watching them," one worker said, "and they better take immediate action of crawling back in their dirty holes, nightshirts and all."

MASKED COPS BEAT NEGROES AND STRIP GIRLS

FLASH:—Homes of three Negroes in North Birmingham were invaded late at night, Nov. 23, by hooded Klansmen and police, who have openly joined forces.

At 7:40 p.m. three police thugs in uniform burst in upon J. Henderson, a worker living in this section. They searched his place, found nothing, and left, cursing.

These police then met 13 other terrorists—all, including the three policemen, donned hoods and proceeded to the house of John Simmons, whom they beat mercilessly. They then moved on to the house of Sam Byers, three blocks away. They divided forces and approached the house, eight at the front door and eight at the back. Breaking down the door they threatened the men present and stripped the two grown daughters to the waist and lashed them.

BIRMINGHAM, Ala. — Steve Simmons, Negro worker, was brutally beaten and knocked unconscious when a group of hooded Klansmen entered his home in Lewisburg, mining suburb of Birmingham, Tuesday night shortly before midnight. The attackers, among whom were recognized a white business man named Earl Walker, and Dunk Shields, kicked down the door and seized Steve Simmons, whom they accused of being a "literature agent."

"You Goddamn black nigger, you know you can't have social equality in this country," the Klansmen told Simmons. "We ought to kill you, you black son-of-a-bitch."

Turning on Simmons' wife, Alice Simmons, they called her a "dirty black bitch,' and struck her. They then beat him until he was unconscious, leaving him with a great open gash in his head, and great welts on his body where their blows had rained upon him.

It was reported that Charlie Sanders, a Negro stool pigeon, was with the white lynch men.

Old Altarpiece

MARIANNA HAS A QUIET SUNDAY AFTER DISORDERS

Advertiser

10-29-34

Montgomery Ala.

(Continued from Page 1)

peared here with the body of the negro on the running board of their car, explaining they had found it in the yard of the Cannidy home. They swung the body of the negro, mutilated with knives, pierced with bullets, from a limb of a tree in front of the courthouse.

Meanwhile, at the home of the simple farm family that has been saddened by tragedy twice recently—another girl relative having been murdered at Roanoke, Va., two months ago—George Cannidy, father of the attack victim, said he "had been double-crossed."

"The mob done me wrong," the elder Cannidy was quoted as saying. "They promised me the first shot at that negro and I didn't get it."

Officers had the mutilated body of the negro cut down from the tree about 7:30 a.m. Saturday, two or three hours after it was put there to dangle a grotesque warning that the people of this section still will resort to lynch law to protect the chastity of their women.

After the body of the negro was removed by local authorities Saturday morning unrest continued in Marianna.

Negroes Go Into Hiding

Slowly but steadily, almost every negro in Marianna left the streets yesterday. Many went in hiding. Others stayed in their homes. The rest just disappeared. Negro employes at local hotels and business firms went without lunch hours so they could remain in the sanctity of their employer's store. Others stayed on their job after their day's work was completed, fearful of braving the temper of an angry citizenry.

During the afternoon a negro, Bud Gannon, was arrested for allegedly having struck a white man, Walter Cook, with a bottle. Gannon denied striking the white man. He was arrested on a holding charge and taken to the sheriff's office on the second floor of Jackson County's pretty little courthouse.

A mob started forming. Deputy J. C. Cooper notified the Governor's office at Tallahassee that he was a virtual prisoner inside the jail. Sheriff W. F. Chambliss was outside trying to hold off the mob.

Upon orders of Gov. Sholtz, Adjt., Gen Vivien Collins mobilized two companies of national guardsmen and sent to Marianna. Company M, 164th Infantry, at Tallassee, under command of Capt. Hugh L. Mays, and Company D, with Capt. Brake as senior officer, were brought here, 120 men in all.

Wholesale Outbreak Feared

Before they arrived, however, a crowd of 200 to 300 men had stormed the courthouse in an unsuccessful effort to take the Gannon negro from the hands of deputies guarding him. Groups of men gathered in negro residential districts. A wholesale outbreak of mob violence was feared but failed to materialize.

About 8:30 p.m. Saturday—nearly an hour before the guardsmen reached Marianna—a motorcade of 80 automobiles carrying 350 Chicago delegates to the recently-ended American Legion convention at Miami drove into town over the Jacksonville highway. They were convoyed by eight traffic inspectors of the Florida Highway Department and three officers of the Tennessee Highway Patrol, who had been sent as a courtesy detail to guide the caravan to Miami and then back to the Tennessee-Kentucky line.

Every driver was honking his horn. The sirens on 11 motorcycles were screaming. The mob wavered, then fell back. Weary newspapermen, catching their first rest in 24 hours, awakened in hotel rooms. Negroes looked at the 350 uniformed men pouring out of automobiles guided into town by sirens, grinned happily, and a few of the more daring starting again walking along the streets of their home town.

This amazing coincidence, which would have been ludicrous under any other circumstances, may have averted a major outbreak here. The mob had refused to heed the threats or the cajolery of blunt, Heflinesque Sheriff Chambliss. It had listened to, but ignored, the pleas of Associate Justice Rivers Buford, of the State Supreme Court, who appealed to the crowd from the courthouse steps after a group of men had approached the doors.

Mob Weakens

The mob spirit weakened while the very ones who had nurtured it hesitated. Within half an hour 120 well-trained young Florida men, armed with field equipment—helmet, rifle, pistol, bayonet and a few with blackjacks—reached here and promptly mounted four machine-guns in Courthouse Square—one at each corner.

The crowd broke up slowly. Scores of persons still were milling about downtown, near the jail and the courthouse last last night, but they were only a small part of the mob that had muttered menacing threats a few hours earlier.

Burly Sheriff Chambliss was gruff with interviewers today. He refused to pose for photographers, would answer no questions.

"This whole thing's had too much notoriety already. The best thing to do is to drop the whole matter and forget it.

"But there's one thing you ought to know. The men who lynched that negro ain't the men who tried to take one of my prisoners last night. That mob last night was led by a bunch of — —— rascals, and some of them were from Alabama.

"Now don't get me wrong. I'm not saying all the leaders were from Alabama, but there were some Alabamians among the ringleaders. I like Alabama, because it's a sister State. I like Alabamians, too. Most of them are all right. But if any of them are figurin' on coming down there in my county and leading a mob against my jail or my deputies, they'd better stay up there on the other side of the State line."

Refuses Military Guard

With that Sheriff Chambliss waved aside the two soldiers military authorities had detailed to guard him during the period of unrest with a "Wait at my office, boys," turned his back on the reporters questioning him, glared at a photographer, strode to his car, and rode off with a friend.

Lieut. Col. J. T. Coombs, commanding the guardsmen on duty here, said tonight he did not know how long the troops would be stationed here. He intimated the men would not be withdrawn before tomorrow at the earliest, and that a smaller force might remain on guard in Marianna even longer.

But it was still just another quiet Sunday everywhere but at the Courthouse and the Jail.

While Jackson County officers said they were carrying out Gov. Sholtz's instructions to make a thorough investigation of the mob action and report without delay, criticism of Stat county authorities echoed from all parts of the country.

Organizations seeking better relations between the white and negro races poured a stream of protests into Washington and Tallahassee, demanding that the Federal Government take a hand because the mob had seized the negro in Alabama and lynched him in Florida. For the most part these complaints contended that Florida and Alabama authorities had ample notice the lynching was to be held and declared that these authorities could have halted it if they had tried.

Grand Jury investigation of the lynching was expected here but so far the jury has not been called into session.

Reports that the mob last night burned negro houses throughout Jackson County proved erroneous. There was a general feeling of fear among the negro population and in many instances white families afforded their negro servants shelter in their own homes over the weekend.

Eight leading negro citizens of Jackson County today signed and published a resolution in which they placed "the stamp of disapproval" on Neal's alleged act which they termed "the most brutal of all crimes." They also expressed sympathy for the family of the slain girl and pledged their race to support law and order.

Lynchings-1934
Discussion

Association of Southern Women for the Prevention of Lynchings.

4511

Miami, Fla. Heral
January 10, 1934

WOMEN IN DEMAND THAT LYNCHING END

Resolution At Atlanta Session Calls On President and Governors For Action

[BY THE ASSOCIATED PRESS.]

ATLANTA, Jan. 9.—Aroused by the lynching spirit, a conference of Southern white women here late today adopted a resolution requesting President Roosevelt and their governors and congressmen to work out a co-operative plan between the federal and state governments "in eradicating this evil."

This action was taken after the conference formally asserted that "past experience has demonstrated that state and local authorities and public opinion on which they depend have failed to bring to justice members of lynching mobs in spite of the fact that their identity was well known."

The women made it plain that they did not want to shift responsibility for stamping out lynching from the state government entirely to the federal government. Some voiced the opinion that the proposed federal anti-lynching bill now before the senate appeared to coerce the states. The thought was expressed that it would be better for co-operation between federal and state governments in fighting lynching.

The proposed bill by Senators Costigan (Democrat, Colorado) and Wagner (Democrat, New York) contains a clause which would forfeit in each county where lynching occurred $10,000 to the family of the victim. It was this which some women thought would prove a barrier to enforcement of the law even were it adopted, especially should the federal government undertake to levy upon the property of the county if the forfeit were not paid.

The resolution also condemned lack of equal educational opportunity for the races, and expressed as the sense of the meeting that the crime of lynching "is a logical result" of arbitrary segregation of a race in unsanitary sections.

Mrs. Atwood Martin of Louisville, Ky., chairman of the Southern Women for the Prevention of Lynching, and Mrs. Jessie Daniel Ames of Atlanta, director of the organization, were named as members of the committee to take the resolution and request to President. They will select a third member.

Representatives were present from 12 of 13 Southern states. Much discussion was given to the 28 lynchings of the last year and to the campaign of educaion that has been conducted by the women against the lynching evil. The statement was made that through the churches and other organizations contact is being made with more than a million white women of the South to spread the anti-lynching teachings.

A majority of the women delegates expressed the opinion that approval at this time of a federal anti-lynching law would interfere with the campaign of education now being carried on in the South.

Mobile, Ala., Press
January 10, 1934

ANTI - LYNCH WAR OPENED BY WOMEN

Southern Group Seeks Co-operation of Officers to Eliminate Violence

ATLANTA, Jan. 10.—(U.P.)—The co-operation of federal and state authorities was sought today by a conference of white women to stamp out lynching in the United States.

A committee of women was named late yesterday at the conference to carry to President Roosevelt a resolution proposing that the president, congressmen and governors of the states work out some plan that will bring about co-operation of the federal government and the states in eradicating lynching.

Some opposition was expressed to the bill of Senators Costigan and Wagner that would seek to eliminate lynching. That part of the bill which would forfeit $10,000 to the family of the lynch victim in the county in which a lynching occurred was opposed as being a possible barrier to enforcement of the law.

Mrs. Atwood Martin of Louisville, Ky., chairman of the Southern Women for the Prevention of Lynching; Mrs. Jessie Daniel Ames of Atlanta, director of the organization, and a third member still to be named will compose the committee to give the resolution to the president.

Knoxville, Tenn., Journal
January 10, 1934

WOMEN OPPOSE MOB VIOLENCE

Resolution Asks Government 'To Eradicate This Evil.'

ATLANTA, Jan. 9 (AP)—Aroused by the lynching spirit, a conference of Southern white women here late today adopted a resolution requesting President Roosevelt and their governors and congressmen to work out a co-operative plan between the federal and state governments "in eradicating this evil."

This action was taken after the conference formally asserted that "past experience has demonstrated that state and local authorities and public opinion on which they depend have failed to bring to justice members of lynching mobs, in spite of the fact that their identity was well known."

The women made it plain they did not want to shift responsibility for stamping out lynching from the state government entirely to the federal government. Some voiced the opinion that the proposed anti-lynching law now before the senate appeared to coerce the states. The thought was expressed that it would be better for co-operation between federal and state governments in fighting lynching.

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Chattanooga, Tenn. News
January 10, 1934

Women Seek to Stop Lynching

Cooperation of Federal and State Authorities Sought.

Atlanta, Jan. 10.—(UP)—The cooperation of Federal and state authorities was sought today by a conference of white women to stamp out lynching in the United States.

A committee of women was named late yesterday at the conference to carry to President Roosevent a resolution proposing that the President, congressmen and governors of the states work out some plan that will bring about cooperation of the Federal Government and the states in eradicating lynching.

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Mrs. Atwood Martin of Louisville, Ky., chairman of the Southern Women for the Prevention of Lynching; Mrs. Jessie Daniel Ames of Atlanta, director of the organization, and a third member still to be named will compose the committee to give the resolution to the President.

"The crime lynching is a logical result in every community that pursues the policy of humiliation and degradation of a part of its citizenship because of accident of birth," the resolution said, "that refuses equal education opportunity to one portion of its children; that segregates arbitrarily a whole race in unsanitary, ugly sections; that permits the lawless elements of both races to congregate in these segregated areas with little fear of molestation by the law, and finally that denied a voice in the control of government to any fit and proper citizen because of race."

Jacksonville, Fla. Journal
January 10, 1934

Favor Cooperation To Check Lynching

ATLANTA, Ga., Jan. 10.—(AP)—Southern white women prefer a plan of co-operation between the federal and state governments for eradicating lynching instead of the proposed federal anti-lynching law which some said threatened to coerce the states.

They have appointed a committee to go to Washington to ask President Roosevelt to seek the co-operation of Southern governors and congressmen in working out a cooperative plan aimed at stamping out lynching.

The women, meeting here as the Association of Southern Women for the Prevention of Lynching, discussed the incidents of the 28 lynchings of the past year and emphasized the urgent necessity of some legal step "to eradicate this evil."

Twelve of the 13 Southern states are represented in the two-day session which is devoted also to the causes of lynching.

Birmingham, Ala., Age-Herald
January 11, 1934

Against Lynching

A group of Southern white women meeting in Atlanta have called on President Roosevelt, governors and congressmen to work out some cooperative plan whereby the evil of lynching may be crushed. Apparently, the conference could not bring itself to approve the Costigan-Wagner bill, but it did declare its support of "any legal measure that promises sure and permanent eradication of lynching." The main emphasis of this organization's program, however, is given to education in behalf of a better interracial attitude.

It is arresting to learn that an association of white women drawn from 12 Southern states has gone on record to this effect: "We reaffirm our condemnation of lynching for any reason whatsoever and we recognize that no alleged crime justifies another crime." And there can be no doubt as to the fairness of the following observation: "Past experience has demonstrated that state and local authorities and public opinion on which they depend have failed to bring to justice members of lynching mobs . . ."

Obviously, the uprooting of lynching in the South cannot be accomplished speedily. But prior to 1933's recrudescence of mob law, the record of diminution had been gratifying to students of the problem. That had been brought about by moral suasion and educational pressure. There is no reason to doubt the efficacy of such measures if consistently applied. If this proves abortive, the consequence is certain to be an injection of federal authority.

Knoxville, Tenn., News-Sentinel
January 11, 1934

STAMPING OUT LYNCHING

A CONFERENCE of Southern white women meeting in Atlanta on the lynching problem has requested the President, governors and congressmen to work out a co-operative plan between federal and state governments for "eradicating this evil."

"The women made it plain," says The Associated Press, "that they did not want to shift responsibility for stamping out lynching from the state government entirely to the federal government. Some voiced the opinion that the proposed federal anti-lynching law now before the Senate (the Costigan-Wagner bill) appeared to coerce the states."

The ladies, we fear, are too optimistic. Past experience has shown that state governments too frequently do not live up to their responsibility by bringing the lynchers to justice. It is only in such cases that the Costigan-Wagner bill would have the government take charge of such prosecution, and also penalize the state and the local officials whose negligence permitted the lynching.

No compromise such as the women's conference suggests will do when the situation gets as bad as it is now. As President Roosevelt termed it, lynching is "collective murder." To stop it, a law that would have the federal government with all its power take charge would be none too drastic.

At the recent congressional committee hearing on racketeering held in Chicago, one witness after another, including notorious racketeers themselves, testified that the one agency the criminal dreads is the federal government. With its power to cross state and county lines and to use its conspiracy statute, which makes any person aiding or even having knowledge of the commission of a federal offense a party defendant, the government and it alone effectively can bring lynching mob members to justice.

"Co-operation" from state governments, in view of past experience, is hardly to be expected unless it is forced.

Selma, Ala. Times
January 12, 1934

THE PRESIDENT COULD STOP LYNCHINGS

The strong appeal to President Roosevelt made by a conference of prominent Southern women leagued together for the prevention of lynching ought to bear fruit. All kinds of jejune and fantastic proposals have been made to root out the lynching evil but few of them have had any efficacy. If President Roosevelt could be induced to invoke the powers of his administration, re-enforced by an active and aggressive personal interest in getting rid of this sinister meance to law and order, something would be accomplished.

President Roosevelt has already boldly denounced lynching as an ominous cloud on the social horizozn, threatening the existence of civilizaztion itself, now let him bring to bear his powerful influence and almost soverignn hold on millions of his countrymen who trust his leadership, to deal with the unspeakable mob in all of its ugly machinations. The President has it within his power to arouse a militant public sentiment against that small brutal element of the population which takes the law into its own hands whenever it chooses. Let him exercise that power to the limit by appointing an able and impartial commission to study the evil and recommend effective methods for dealing with it. Then we could proceed deliberately and determinedly in checking and routing the mob. The South should back the President without a murmur of dissent in leading a drive on this immeasurable curse which has brought so much reproach on this section and its people.

Cites Lynching Is Not Racial Problem In Praising Stand of Southern Women

Editor Constitution: The war on lynching inaugurated by southern white women is the most magnanimous and heroic assault yet launched against this great American iniquity. It robs the apologists of mob violence of their last plausible plea in extenuation. There is no limit to which masculine chivalry will not go in defense of the honor and virtue of womanhood. But the very women in whose behalf, it is alleged, mob violence is resorted to, deny the effectiveness of the method and repudiate the genuineness of the motive.

Constitution

The record shows that not one case of lynching in four can plead even the allegement of rape in justification. The advocates of lynching as a remedy for rape are not without a low order of sinister cunning. They seek to brand the negro with the stigma of this "peculiar" crime. The fact that the crime was unheard of, when, during the Civil War, the negro man was intrusted with the care of white womanhood seems to make no impression upon their intellectual and moral obtuseness. All right-minded men are agreed that murder, arson, kidnaping and rape are the most heinous forms of crime that human nature is capable of, and deserve the most condign punishment that can be legally devised. But the crime of the mob is no remedy for the crime of the man.

1-21-34

The southern women have engaged to put an end both to lynching by invoking the co-operation of nation, state and locality to unite in a common endeavor in so far this may be constitutionally feasible.

Atlanta Ga.

President Roosevelt, using the moral authority of his high office, has recently appealed to the conscience of the nation to put an end to lynching. These southern women have appealed to the president to continue the good work by leading the mobilization of the national conscience to blot out this stigma which stains America's fair name in the eyes of the world. The women would appeal more immediately to the conscience of the south to wipe out this foul blot from its escutceon. What southern state can contemplate its "bad eminence" of leading the lynching record of the nation without hanging its head in shame?

Hitherto assault on lynching has been led by the north and by the negro who bears the heaviest brunt of it all. Political, sectional and racial animosities have been aroused, and criminations and recriminations have frustrated effective remedies. The propaganda led by southern women will obviate all such destructive internal wrangling among those who have a common end in view. The most effective agitation against lynching can come from the south, and most especially from the white women of the south.

The anti-lynching propaganda hitherto has suffered because its sponsorship has come from philanthropists working in behalf of the negro. The white race, not the negro, is in charge of the machinery of government and is responsible to the judgment of the would for the maintenance of law and order. I sat in the galleries of the house of representatives and watched the controversy raging around the Dyer anti-lynching bill. Southerners antagonized it on the ground of its constitutionality and the encroachment upon local pride and autonomy. Northerners supported it, especially those of heavy negro voting constituency, as a favor to the colored race. The vindication of the majesty of the law should be the chief concern of all Americans, white and black alike.

There have been something like fifteen hundred white men and women lynched during the past 50 years. White men, and even white women, have been burned at the stake. The recent mutilation, lynching and burning of two white men at San Jose, Cal., were as atroucious and horrible as anything which has happened in the history of lynching. If not a single negro had been lynched during the last half century, the necessity of anti-lynching reform would be none the less imperative.

President Roosevelt has assumed the leadership in both material and moral recovery. The southern women have volunteered to uphold his hands. The work to which they are committed is as essential as any other to the perpetuity and welfare of American institutions.

KELLY MILLER,
Howard University.
Washington, D. C., Jan. 18, 1934.

A CLOAK FOR MOB VIOLENCE

Out of the better consciousness of the South can be discerned the creation of forces championed and directed by the Association of Southern (white) Women for the prevention of lynching. This movement is being fostered by Mrs. Atwood Martin of Kentucky, Mrs. Jessie Daniel Ames of Georgia and a membership of over a million southern white women who have determined to protest against the charges that lynchings are perpetrated in the South in defense of their virtue.

Mrs. Clelia P. McGovern of Charleston, S. C., representing one of the leading families of that state, has joined in the movement to erase this stigma from the ecord of southern white women. Her attitude on the question can be better understood and appreciated by the following statement: "Hundreds of thousands of white women in the South feel that the law, as represented by sheriffs, juries and judges, is their honorable and reliable protection and avenger. Women have in every (southern) state passed resolutions repudiating the use of the name of white women of the South as a cloak for mob violence."

The above statement is sufficient of itself, especially in the boldness of its denunciation, to give impetus to the opinion that the better thinking southern white women are determined that southern white men who manufacture excuses for mob violence can no longer depend upon them to silently permit the hypocritical pretense of avenging their virtue serve to rescue them from the penalties of the law.

These women are determined to create a new social order. They are well acquainted with the fact that the white men of the South who are the loudest in proclaiming against social equality for the past 50 years have been the worst offenders, and in fact have themselves created the very institution against which they now complain. The southern white men who have been the loudest against the mingling of the races have been the after-dark advocates of social equality and have found much pleasure and contentment in visiting and socializing on the other end of "Main Street."

So frequent and persistent have been their visits that in many sections of the South they have difficulty in determining who are "their relatives." This movement started by the leading white women of the South—if carried out — will serve a twofold purpose: first, it will relieve them of the odium of being responsible for the perpetration of these murders and massacres; second, it will serve to rescue many southern Colored girls from being forced into illicit relations with white men.

Lynchings-1934

Discussions.

Association of Southern Women for the Prevention of Lynchings.

4512

SOUTHERN WOMEN ASK CONGRESS TO AID IN FIGHT ON LYNCHING

Atlanta Conference Sends Resolutions to Roosevelt and Governors

Telegraph 1-10-34 Macon Ga

ATLANTA, Jan. 9 (AP)—Aroused by the lynching spirit, a conference of Southern white women here late today adopted a resolution requesting President Roosevelt and their governors and congressmen to work out a co-operative plan between the federal and state governments "in eradicating this evil."

This action was taken after the conference formally asserted that "past experience has demonstrated that state and local authorities and public opinion on which they depend have failed t bring to justice members of lynching mobs in spite of the fact that their identity was well known."

The women made it plain that they did not want to shift responsibility for stamping out lynching from the state government entirely to the federal government. Some voiced the opinion that the proposed federal anti-lynching bill now before the senate appeared to coerce the states. The thought was expressed that it would be better for co-operation between federal and state governments in fighting lynching.

The proposed bill by Senators Costigan (D., Colo.) and Wagner (D., N. Y.) contains a clause which would forfeit in each county where lynching occurrred $10,000 to the family of the victim. It was this which some women thought would prove a barrier to enforcement of the law, even were it adopted, especially should the federal government undertake to levy upon the property of the county, were the forfeit not paid.

Equal Educational Opportunities

The resolution also condemned lack of equal educational opportunity for the races, and expressed as the sense of the meeting that the crime of lynching "is a logical result" in a community that arbitrarily segregates a race in unsanitary sections; that exploits and intimidates the weaker element for economic gain and denies an equal voice in control of government "to any fit and proper citizen because of race."

Mrs. Atwood Martin of Louisville, Ky., chairman of the Southern Women for the Prevention of Lynching, and Mrs. Jessie Daniel Ames of Atlanta, director of the organization, were named as members of the committee to take the resolution and request to the president. They will select a third member.

Representatives were present from 12 of 13 southern states. Much discussion was given to the 28 lynchings of the past year and to the campaign of education that has been conducted by the women against the lynching evil. The statement was made that through the churches and other organizations contact is being made with more than a million white women of the South to spread the anti-lynching teachings.

Leaders Are on Board

A majority of the women delegates expressed the opinion that approval at this time of a federal anti-lynching law would interfere with the campaign of education now being carried on in the South. It was after some remarks by Dr. W. W. Alexander, director of the commission of interracial co-operation, that the conference adopted the suggested plan for co-operation between the state and federal governments to fight lynching.

The commission on interracial co-operation is composed of the leading white and Negro citizens in the South for the mutual advancement of both races. It has taken a leading stand in the fight on lynching and also in the demand for equal opportunities for the Negroes in matters of education, economics and other duties and opportunities of citizenship.

Those attending the meeting included:

Mrs. W. J. Neel, Forsyth, Ga., Mrs. Julian Harris, Atlanta, Mrs. George E. Davis, Orangeburg, S. C., Mrs. E. M. Bailey, Ackworth, Ga., Mrs. M. E. Tilly, Atlanta, Mrs. Emmett Quinn, Atlanta, Mrs. Janie W. McGaughey, Atlanta, Mrs. E. M. Underwood, Atlanta, Miss Bert Winter, Gray, Ga., Mrs. W. A. Turner, Newnan, Ga., Mrs. Jesse Daniel Ames, Atlanta.

WOMEN TO SEEK ROOSEVELT'S AID IN 'LYNCH' DRIVE

Constitution 1-10-34

Southern Group at Meeting Here, Condemns Mob Rule and Appeals for Federal Co-operation.

Atlanta, Ga.

By W. F. CALDWELL

Associated Press Staff Writer

Aroused by the recent wave of lynchings in several parts of the country a conference of southern white women here late Tuesday adopted a resolution requesting President Roosevelt and their governors and congressmen to work out a co-operative plan between the federal and state governments "in eradicating this evil."

This action was taken after the conference formally asserted that "past experience has demonstrated that state and local authorities and public opinion on which they depend have failed to bring to justice members of lynching mobs in spite of the fact that their identity was well known."

The women made it plain that they did not want to shift responsibility for stamping out lynching from the state government entirely to the federal government. Some voiced the opinion that the proposed federal anti-lynching bill now bfore the senate appeared to coerce the states. The thought was expressed that it would be better for co-operation between federal and state governments in fighting lynching.

County Forfeit Opposed.

The proposed bill by Senators Costigan, democrat, Colorado, and Wagner, democrat, New York, contains a clause which would forfeit $10.000 in each county where lynching occurred to the family of the victim. It was this which some women thought would prove a barrier to enforcement of the law, even were it adopted, especially should the federal government undertake to levy upon the property of the county, where the forfeit not paid.

The resolution also condemned lack of equal educational opportunity for the races, and expressed as the sense of the meeting that the crime of lynching "is a logical result" of arbitrary segregation of a race in unsanitary sections; that exploits and intimidates the weaker element for economic gain and denial of an equal voice in control of government" to any fit and proper citizen because of race.

Constitution 1-10-34 Atlanta Ga

Text of Resolution.

The text of the resolution follows:

"We reaffirm our condemnation of lynching for any reason whatsoever and we recognize that no alleged crime justifies another crime. We declare as our deliberate conclusion that the crime lynching is a logical result in every community that pursues the policy of humiliation and degradation of a part of its citizenship because of accident of birth; that exploits and intimidates the weaker element in its population for economic gain; that refuses equal educational opportunity to one portion of its children; that segregates arbitrarily a whole race in unsanitary, ugly sections; that permits the lawless elements of both races to congregate in these segregated areas with little fear of molestation by the law; and finally that denies a voice in the control of government to any fit and proper citizen because of race.

"We regard with favor any legal measure that promises sure and permanent eradication of lynching.

"Past experience has demonstrated that state and local authorities and public opinion on which they depend have failed to bring to justice members of lynching mobs in spite of the fact that their identity was well known. It is our conviction that some plan should be devised by which state and federal authorities may co-oporate in eradicating this evil. We therefore call upon our president, our governors and our congressional representatives to work out some plan together that shall bring about such co-operation. We further recommend that a committee from this association be appointed to enlist the co-operation of the president, the governors and the congressional representatives in working out such a plan."

Committee Members Named.

Mrs. Atwood Martin, of Louisville, Ky., chairman of the southern women for the preventition of lynching, and Mrs. Jessie Daniel Ames, of Atlanta, director of the organization, were named as members of the committee to take the resolution and request to the president. They will select a third member.

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Those attending the Association of Southern Women for the Prevention of Lynching here included:

Mrs. Atwood Martin and Mrs. G. W. Hummell, of Louisville, Ky.; Mrs. W. A. Newell, Salisbury, N. C.; Mrs. W. J. Neel, Forsyth, Ga.; Mrs. Ben Knop, Shreveport, La.; Mrs. Julian L. Harris, Atlanta; Mrs. George E. Davis, Orangeburg, S. C.; Miss Louise Young, Nashville, Tenn.; Mrs. Clelia P. McGowan, Charleston, S. C.; Mrs. E. M. Bailey, Acworth, Ga.; Mrs. John M. Hanna, Dallas; Mrs. L. W. Alford, McComb, Miss.; Mrs. C. H. Thorpe, Little Rock; Mrs. S. M. Marrs, Austin, Texas; Mrs. M. E. Tilly, Atlanta; Mrs. William P. Cornell, Jacksonville; Mrs. Emmett Quinn, Atlanta; Mrs. J. G. Lawhorn, Hugo, Okla.; Mrs. James A. Richardson, Richmond; Mrs. Janie W. McGaughey, Atlanta; Mrs. E. M. Underwood, Atlanta; Miss Bert Winter, Gray, Ga.; Mrs. W. A. Turner, Newnan, Ga.; Mrs. B. J. Reavis, Little Rock; Mrs. Jesse Daniel Ames, Atlanta.

Southern Group Of Women After Lynching Curb

Advertiser 1-10-34

Prefer Education, However, To Federal Regulation; See Threat In New Law For 'Vote Equality'

Montgomery, Ala.

'Policy Of Humiliation And Degradation' Also Seen As Trouble Stimulant

By W. F. CALDWELL

Associated Press Staff Writer

ATLANTA, GA., Jan. 9—(AP)—Aroused by the lynching spirit, a conference of Southern white women here late today adopted a resolution requesting President Roosevelt and their Governors and Congressmen to work out a cooperative plan between Federal and State Governments "in eradicating this evil."

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The bill by Senators Costigan (D), Colorado, and Wagner (D), New York, contains a clause which would forfeit in each county where lynching occurred $10,000 to the family of the victim. It was this which some women thought would prove a barrier to enforcement of the law, even were it adopted, especially should the Federal Government undertake to levy upon the property of the county, were the forfeit not paid.

Educational Opportunity

The resolution also condemned lack of equal educational opportunity for the races, and expressed as the sense of the meeting that the crime of lynching "is a logical result" in a community that arbitrarily segregates a race in insanitary sections; that exploits and intimidates the weaker element for economic gain and denies an equal voice in control of Government "to any fit and proper citizen because of race."

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"Failure Of Justice"

"Past experience has demonstrated

that State and local authorities and public opinion on which they depend have failed to bring to justice members of lynching mobs in spite of the fact that their identity was well known. It is our conviction that some plan should be devised by which State and Federal authorities may cooperate in eradicating this evil. We therefore call upon our President, our Governors and our congressional representatives to work out some plan together that shall bring about such cooperation. We further recommend that a committee from this association be appointed to enlist the cooperation of the President, the Governors and the congressional representatives in working out such a plan."

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A majority of the women delegates expressed the opinion that approval at this time of a Federal anti-lynching law would interfere with the campaign of education now being carried on in the South.

Advertiser 1-19-34
Montgomery [illegible]

Southern Women On Lynching And Justice

IT IS REPORTED from reliable sources that 10,000 southern white women have joined the Association of Southern Women for the Prevention of Lynching. Representatives of the association from twelve out of thirteen Southern states met in Atlanta last week and considered the question of the need of Federal law against lynchers. They decided that coordinate action between state and Federal authorities was desirable, and in that position we believe they are on sound ground. Any action by the Federal authorities that would lessen the responsibility of the several states might result in only punitive treatment of lynchers and speed prevention not at all.

If, as the leading southern women petitioned President Roosevelt, members of Congress and the governors of the several states, a plan can be worked out under which the Federal and state governments may cooperate in the prevention of lynching, and the apprehension and punishment of lynchers, that is a good and desirable plan. Any legal measures that will prevent mob violence, whether Federal or state, are good measures.

It is not so much with the action taken by this association of southern women against lynching at their Atlanta meeting as with the rare frankness with which they discussed and declared themselves for justice for the Negro that we wish to draw attention to.

[illegible] 1-23-34

Cites Lynching Is Not Racial Problem In Praising Stand of Southern Women

Editor Constitution: The war on lynching inaugurated by southern white women is the most magnanimous and heroic assault yet launched against this great American iniquity. It robs the apologists of mob violence of their last plausible plea in extenuation. There is no limit to which masculine chivalry will not go in defense of the honor and virtue of womanhood. But the very women in whose behalf, it is alleged, mob violence is resorted to, deny the effectiveness of the method and repudiate the genuineness of the motive.

Constitution 1-21-34
Atlanta Ga.

The record shows that not one case of lynching in four can plead even the allegement of rape in justification. The advocates of lynching as a remedy for rape are not without a low order of sinister cunning. They seek to brand the negro with the stigma of this "peculiar" crime. The fact that the crime was unheard of, when, during the Civil War, the negro man was intrusted with the care of white womanhood seems to make no impression upon their intellectual and moral obtuseness. All right-minded men are agreed that murder, arson, kidnaping and rape are the most heinous forms of crime that human nature is capable of, and deserve the most condign punishment that can be legally devised. But the crime of the mob is no remedy for the crime of the man.

The southern women have engaged to put an end both to lynching by invoking the co-operation of nation, state and locality to unite in a common endeavor in so far this may be constitutionally feasible.

President Roosevelt, using the moral authority of his high office, has recently appealed to the conscience of the nation to put an end to lynching. These southern women have appealed to the president to continue the good work by leading the mobilization of the national conscience to blot out this stigma which stains America's fair name in the eyes of the world. The women would appeal more immediately to the conscience of the south to wipe out this foul blot from its escutcheon. What southern state can contemplate its "bad eminence" of leading the lynching record of the nation without hanging its head in shame?

Hitherto assault on lynching has been led by the north and by the negro who bears the heaviest brunt of it all. Political, sectional and racial animosities have been aroused, and criminations and recriminations have frustrated effective remedies. The propaganda led by southern women will obviate all such destructive internal wrangling among those who have a common end in view. The most effective agitation against lynching can come from the south, and most especially from the white women of the south.

The anti-lynching propaganda hitherto has suffered because its sponsorship has come from philanthropists working in behalf of the negro. The white race, not the negro, is in charge of the machinery of government and is responsible to the judgment of the would for the maintenance of law and order. I sat in the galleries of the house of representatives and watched the controversy raging around the Dyer anti-lynching bill. Southerners antagonized it on the ground of its constitutionality and the encroachment upon local pride and autonomy. Northerners supported it, especially those of heavy negro voting constituency, as a favor to the colored race. The vindication of the majesty of the law should be the chief concern of all Americans, white and black alike.

There have been something like fifteen hundred white men and women lynched during the past 50 years. White men, and even white women, have been burned at the stake. The recent mutilation, lynching and burning of two white men at San Jose, Cal., were as atroucious and horrible as anything which has happened in the history of lynching. If not a single negro had been lynched during the last half century, the necessity of anti-lynching reform would be none the less imperative.

President Roosevelt has assumed the leadership in both material and moral recovery. The southern women have volunteered to uphold his hands. The work to which they are committed is as essential as any other to the perpetuity and welfare of American institutions.

KELLY MILLER,
Howard University.
Washington, D. C., Jan. 18, 1934.

Knoxville, Tenn., News-Sentinel
January 16, 1934

SOUTHERN WOMEN SPEAK

THE Dixie gentlemen who have been lynching black men stand condemned by the very flower of womanhood they have pretended to protect.

In Atlanta last week the conference of Southern White Women for the Prevention of Lynching passed resolutions calling on President Roosevelt to work with governors and congressmen to eradicate this evil. It was this conference that four years ago served notice on men that they held no commission to protect the honor and virture of Southern women by means of mob murders.

With a membership of some 1,000,000 white women in 11 Southern states, the conference can be said to speak for Southern women rather generally.

The conference did not specifically endorse the pending Wagner-Costigan bill, providing for federal intervention to halt lynchings. But there is argument for such a measure in the Conference's statement that:

"Past experience has demonstrated that state and local authorities and the public opinion behind them have failed to bring to justice members of lynching mobs altho their identities have been known."

The federal anti-lynching bill does not deprive localities of an opportunity to preserve constitutional rights to their citizens. It merely arms the federal government with the right to step in and punish lynchers and cowardly officials when localities have failed.

The attitude of President Roosevelt toward this problem was indicated in his message to Congress on Jan. 3. In his list of crimes that "call on the strong arm of the government for their immediate suppression" and on the country "for an aroused public opinion," the President catalogued lynching along with organized banditry, cold-blooded shooting and kidnaping.

False local pride should not be allowed to kill the Wagner-Costigan bill.

A DOUBTFUL PROPOSAL

The proposal of the Association of Southern Women for the Prevention of Lynching that they will use their efforts to get adopted a program of cooperation between the states and the Federal government for stamping out lynching is, in the opinion of The Informer, a doubtful one. In so far as the association failed to go on record as endorsing and supporting the Federal anti-lynching bill which is now before congress, it is a negative slap at that bill.

Informer 1-27-34

Not only this, but the states, especially the Southern states, have proven both their incapacity and indifference toward the lynching evil, and it is now time to call a firm, powerful halt. What we now need is action to adopt the Federal anti-lynching bill, and not delay to survey and discuss and fail to get any effective action by proposing something new and different.

Houston [illegible]

Just as a Federal anti-kidnaping bill was necessary to put the fear of God into the hearts of the kidnaper, so is a like bill necessary to put some respect for human life into the breasts of the lyncher and rolpher.

Association of Southern Women for the Prevention of Lynchings

Lynchings-1934
Discussions.

4513

ARE AMERICANS AGAINST LYNCHING?

Defender
6-23-34
Houston, Tex.

Following the recent lynching of two Negroes in Quitman County, Mississippi, the Mississippi Council of Women for Prevention of Lynching, passed resolutions" demanding the sheriff and prosecuting attorney to "make every effort to identify and bring to justice the leaders of the mob."

This was a very patriotic and Christian move on the part of these fine Southern white women, but until public opinion in this country is changed regarding mob violence and until we discard the double standard of citizenship, Judge Lynch will continue to hold undisputed sway in various sections of this country.

As The Defender has contended heretofore. America is mob-minded, and as long as Negroes are the victims of this hideous monster very little will be attempted or done to overthrow the lynching dynasty.

Resolutions sound good and pleasing, but they always come after the lynching orgy and accomplish practically no helpful results.

Even the United States congress is in harmony with the lynching evil, as thrice during the last decade it has refused to pass anti-lynching legislation; although that same august legislative body found ample time for and sufficient ground on which to pass other federal criminal laws against kidnapers, gangsters, racketeers and other modern-day criminals, who are victimizing members of the dominant race.

If the South were against mob violence, in less time than it takes to talk or write about it, Judge Lynch's League, Inc., would either be dissolved or placed in receivership.

This editorial is not intended as a slap at the good white women of Mississippi, who, perhaps, were honest in their position on this double lynching which took place in their state, nor is it an effort to challenge their regard for law and order or impugn their motives; but The Defender holds adamantly to the view that lynching will continue to be the great American pastime until the people decide to respect law and constituted authorities.

Because of this apathy, indifference, hypocrisy or moral cowardice on the part of the citizens, many law-enforcing and administering officers will work in connivance with the mob and lend all possible assistance to the lynchers, knowing in advance that there will be no popular wave of resentment either against them or the lynchocrats.

WOMEN DEMAND THAT LYNCHERS BE PUNISHED

Afro American
6-23-34

Clarksdale, Miss., June 15—Stirred by the double lynching last week in Quitman County, the Mississippi Council of Women for the Prevention of Lynching is demanding of the sheriff and prosecuting attorney that every effort be made to identify and bring to justice the leaders of the mob.

On the morning following the lynching Mrs. L. W. Alford, chairman of the Council, wired this demand to Sheriff W. T. Haynes. This was immediately followed with letters to the sheriff, the district prosecuting attorney, and sheriffs of the surrounding counties urging them to do their duty.

It is anticipated that the Council, comprising outstanding white women of the State, will also address to the public a statement denouncing lynching and asking the cooperation of all good citizens for its suppression. Mrs. Alford's letter to Sheriff Haynes was as follows:

"I regret exceedingly that this black spot has been added to our State record.' I insist that you and the other officers use your authority to identify the leaders of this mob and see that they are punished according to law. Such action on the part of officers and courts will eliminate mob violence and eradicate lynching.

Afro American
Philadelphia

Charlotte
6-14-34

"Certainly the prisoners should have had the limit of the law, but according to our Constitution they should have been given the right of jury. The lynchers likewise should suffer the legal consequences of their crime.

"As a citizen of our great commonwealth, I implore you to do everything in your power to punish the leaders of this mob. This alone will solve the problem of lynching."

Mrs. Ames Whips Southern White Women Into Line For Effective Offensive Against Lynching

Journal and Guide
6-30-34 Norfolk, Va.

ATLANTA, Ga.—(ANP) — Although the millenium of inter-racial understanding which the good-will leaders in both races hopefully look forward to and work for is still many, many years in the future, there exists reason to believe from the work of some existing organizations in the south that forward, positive progress is being made.

Fertile soil for the seed of good-will is being made fallow by the talented, sometimes devious, efforts of the good will spokesman.

Interracial Commission

Most widely known is the Southern Commission on Interracial Relations which has achieved vigor and prominence under the leadership of Dr. Will W. Alexander, president of Dillard University.

But most ingenious is the Association of Southern Women for the Prevention of Lynching under the inspiring direction of Jessie Daniel Ames, now of this city. It might be said that Dr. Alexander's right-hand man is a woman and that woman is Mrs. Ames.

The force behind Mrs. Ames is probably glandular; that is, she has an emotional resentment which propels her into the fight to destroy such evils as lynching. But she possesses more than emotion of heart for the cause.

Her fine mental ability, which might have distingguished her in any field, has likewise enabled her to move effectively against the evils she resents.

Blasts Old Belief

In attacking the lynch evil, Mrs. Ames first struck at the canard that lynching was necessary to protect white womanhood. She induced the best white women in the South to repudiate this false reflection on them.

In effect, she carried the issue of lynching into the homes of white people throughout the South when she succeeded in obtaining pledges from more than 30,000 white women against lynching. These 30,000 women told the men in their families that they were against lynching.

From the home, Mrs. Ames went to the courthouse. She had learned that many lynchings occur with the connivance and participation of officers of the law.

To-day, her files contain the names of those sheriffs in the south who oppose lynching. To each one she sent a pledge against lynching, asking each to sign and return to her. The great majority signed these pledges.

She knows those who did not. She knows they are weak spots.

Calles Attention To Evil

But better still has been the manner in which Mrs. Ames has droppod the "race problem" into the laps of white southern housewives who just had not stopped to think about it before.

Before coming to Georgia, she lived in Texas. There she was a politician in the state which has twice had a woman governor.

Mrs. Ames reaches these women through the churches and their auxiliaries. There is scarcely an organization with high Chirstian and public purposes in the South to which she has not taken her message. Not always have these groups been receptive.

She does not stop either with the adoption of a resolution. For good measure, she usually throws in a program of active endeavor that reaches into the churches and study clubs at home.

Thousands of delegates have gone to conventions in the South without any thought of taking up the South's most important problems and have returned with concrete instructions on it in their portfolioes.

The list of organizations which

how co-poerate with the Association of Southern Women for the Prevention of Lynching indicates how Mrs. Ames has sought to "tie up" progressive, liberal sentiment in the South:

Methods Outlined

Among the methods openly pursued by Mrs. Ames are the following:

"Take every opportunity to present the work.

"Make other opportunities to present the work.

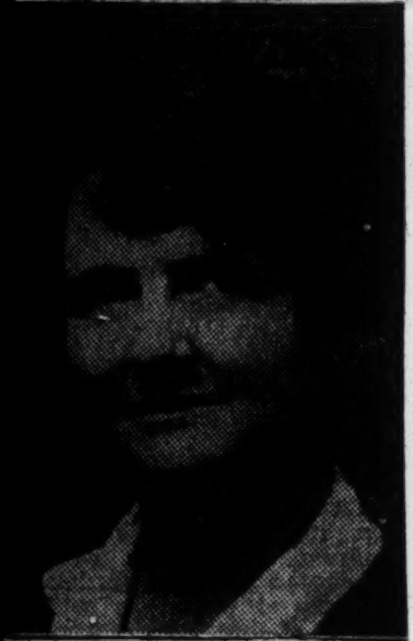
"Secure the endorsement from state, sectional, and national conventions and conferences of men and women, and obtain signatures of delegates.

"Reach every county in the South by delegating to one missionary society at the county seat the responsibility for:

"a. Interesting every organization, men and women, in the county in the campaign against lynching.

"b. Securing signatures of officers and members of all organizations, religious, civic, and patriotic in the town and county. Be sure to get signatures of men.

"c. Securing signatures of county officials, preachers, and teachers in county."



MRS. JESSIE AMES

4,000 WOMEN IN TEXAS FIGHTING LYNCHING MOBS

Murders by Gangs in State Reduced 80 Per Cent in 25 Years

Tribune
12-29-34
Washington

FORT WORTH, Texas — That 22,000 Southern white women have joined the Association of Southern Women for the Prevention of Lynching, and that more than two hundred sheriffs in Southern states have pledged their efforts to the same end were stated at the meeting here of the State Interracial Commission and the Texas branch of the women's anti-lynching association.

It was reported that the Association has more than 4,000 signed members in the state and that 38 Texas sheriffs and other officers have personally signed the Association's pledge.

Reports as to interracial conditions were made from various sections of the state, and Dr. Channing H. Tobias, of New York, national secretary of the Y. M. C. A., delivered an address upon the general situation.

Another speaker was Mrs. Jessie Daniel Ames, director of Woman's Work of the Commission on Interracial Cooperation and organizer of the association from its organization in Atlanta in 1930 to its present proportions of 22,000 signed members in 961 counties and 2,537 communities throughout the Southern states.

It was shown that there has been a reduction of 80 per cent in the lynching record of Texas in the past twenty years, from thirty-one for the five years beginning in 1915 to six for the five-year period beginning in 1930. The association set for its goal a lynchless year in Texas in 1935, and will seek to sign up the sheriff of every county and two thousand additional men and women. It was reported that every candidate for governor in the recent democratic primary had been interrogated by the Association as to whether, if elected, he would do everything in his power to prevent mob violence and that all had answered satisfactorily.

Lynchings-1934
&
Discussions.

Association of Southern Women for the Prevention of Lynchings,
&

4514

SOUTH GEORGIA OFFICERS SIGN ANTI-MOB PLEDGE

Sheriff and Police Chief Join Women's Crusade — Governors Also Pledge Co-operation.

Courier
2-24-34
Pittsburgh,
Pa.

ATLANTA, Ga., Feb. 22—"We declare lynching is an indefensible crime, destructive of all principles of government, hateful and hostile to every ideal of religion and humanity, debasing and degrading to every person involved. We dare not allow these bent upon personal revenge and savagery to commit acts of violence and lawlessness. We solemnly pledge ourselves to create a new public opinion in the South which will not condone for any reason whatever the acts of mobs or lynchers. We shall teach our children at home, at school and at church a new interpretation of law and religion; we will assist all officers to up hold their oath of office, and finally we will join with every minister, editor, school teacher, and patriotic citizen in a program of education to eradicate lynching and mobs forever from our land."

A copy of the above statement, which is part of the official pledge of the Association of Southern Women for the Prevention of Lynching and which has been signed personally by more than 17,000 southern white women, has just come into the office of the association in this city, bearing the signatures of three chiefs of police of South Georgia towns, four city policemen, and a sheriff and a bailiff of the county. The explanation is found in the following letter to Mrs. Jessie Daniel Ames, organizer and director of the association, which throws an interesting light upon the activities of the women who are promoting this movement to rid the South of the lynching habit:

"My dear Mrs. Ames: I believe you meant for me to get members of the missionary society to sign this pledge against lynching, but I got as many officers of the law as I could see to sign it. I feel like they are the ones to enforce the law and they said in signing this pledge that they would do their part. It took several weeks for me to see these men and I didn't see two of them in person, but left the paper with their wives and they told me their husbands were glad to sign it. My husband is convict warden in this county and he said he was opposed to lynching unless it was for rape, but I tried to tell him that it wasn't right to lynch under any circumstances."

A few days ago a committee of Louisiana women representing the association called upon Governor Allen of that state, laid before him the association's indictment of lynching, and asked his cooperation. The governor pledged himself to do everything possible to prevent mob violence and authorized them to quote him as saying: "I am very much opposed to lynching and to all sorts of mob violence."

A few days earlier Governor Dave Sholtz of Florida was waited on by Florida members of the association. He assured them that if given two hours warning, he would see to it that no lynching should take place in that state.

The above incidents illustrate some of the methods employed by the association in building a public conscience for the ultimate eradication of mob violence.

Columbia, S. C. Record
March 23, 1934

WOMEN HEAR ADDRESS ON LYNCHING IN SOUTH

The Association of Southern Women for the Prevention of Lynching held a meeting at the First Baptist church yesterday at which time Mrs. J. D. Ames, of Atlanta, delivered an address. Mrs. Ames gave an interesting talk in which she brought out the importance of preventing lynchings instead of providing heavy penalties for the crime.

At a meeting of the executive session of the council, it was decided that one thousand additional South Carolina women be asked to join the association and that all sheriffs in the state be asked to make commitments that they will do everything in their power to prevent lynchings.

Columbia, S. C. State
March 23, 1934

MRS. AMES TALKS ON MOB VIOLENCE

Anti-Lynching Association Seeks 1,000 More Members in State.

One thousand additional South Carolina women will be asked to join the Association of Southern Women for the Prevention of Lynchings, and all sheriffs in the state will be asked to make commitments that they will do everything in their power to prevent lynchings, it was decided by an executive session of the council at the First Baptist church yesterday morning.

Mrs. J. D. Ames of Atlanta addressed the group of women. She said they had gone on record as asking congress for measures to prevent lynchings rather than to provide for penalties.

The organization, she continued, was "purely educational."

Mrs. George Davis of Orangeburg is chairman of the council in this state.

Jacksonville, Fla.
JOURNAL

MAR 16 1934

WOMEN WILL SCORE LYNCHING

Conference to Be Held Here All-Day Monday

The Florida Council of the Association of Southern Women for the prevention of lynching will hold a series of meetings in Jacksonville on Monday.

The council will meet in St. John's Community House, 325 Market street at 10:30 a. m. and luncheon will be served there at 1 p. m. At 3 p. m. the council will meet in the Taliaferro Memorial building of St. John's parish.

Mrs. Jessie Daniel Ames, of Atlanta, executive director of the association, will be the principal speaker before the afternoon session.

The extension of the program of the anti-lynching group will be discussed, it has been announced, and plans will be made to inform and interest more Floridians in the effort to eradicate lynching.

The following Jacksonville women are members of the state council of the association:

Mrs. Cornell, chairman; Mrs. T. H. Crawford, Mrs. Walter S. Jones, Mrs. I. L. Kaplan, Mrs. M. M. Lander, Mrs. Malcolm McClelland, Mrs. Josephine K. Maner, Mrs. John L. Oldham, Mrs. J. D. Russell, Mrs. E. L. Vodermark, Mrs. Ralph E. Wendt, Mrs. Brooke White, Mrs. Edward Pfaff, and Miss Grace Dalloz; Lakeland, Mrs. T. C. Banks; Mineola, Mrs. I. O. Woodley; Ocala, Mrs. G. J. Rousseau; Orlando, Mrs. Edna Giles Fuller.

CHARLESTON, S. C.
NEWS

MAR 24 1934

MOB CRUSADE' PLANNED

Association to Prevent Lynching Maps Campaign

Columbia, March 23.—(AP): Plans to enlist 1,000 additional South Carolina women in the crusade against mob violence were made today by the state council of the Association for the Prevention of Lynching.

In addition to voting to ask this number to join the association, the council decided also to ask all the sheriffs of the state to make commitments that they will do everything in their power to prevent lynchings.

Mrs. J. D. Ames, of Atlanta, addressed the council. She said it had gone on record as asking congress for measures to prevent mob killings rather than to provide for penalties.

The organization, she explained is "purely educational."

Jacksonville, Fla., Times-Union
March 19, 1934

Anti-Lynchers Gather Today

Bishop Juhan Will Conduct Devotionals at Session.

The Rt. Rev. Frank A. Juhan, bishop of the Episcopal Diocese of Florida, and State chairman of the Interracial Commission, will conduct the opening devotions of the open meeting of the Association of Southern Women for the Prevention of Lynching, to be held at 3 P. M., today in the Taliaferro Memorial Building of St. John's Church, Market and Church Streets. The speaker of the afternoon will be Mrs. Jessie Daniel Ames, executive director of the association.

Mrs. William P. Cornell, State chairman of the association, has authorized a city-wide invitation to ministers, their congregations, and to all interested in the prevention of lynching to attend and participate in today's meeting.

The following declaration and pledge is the official statement of the association. Opportunity will be offered to those attending today's meeting to sign this declaration and so align themselves with this movement.

A Declaration.

"We declare lynching is an indefensible crime destructive of all principles of government, hateful and hostile to every ideal of religious and humanity, debasing and degrading to every person involved. Though lynchings are not confined to any one section of the United States, we are aroused by the record which discloses our heavy responsibility for the presence of this crime, in our country. We believe that this record has been achieved because public opinion has accepted too easily the claim of lynchers and mobsters, that they were acting solely in the defense of womanhood. In the light of facts, this claim can no longer be used as a protection to those who lynch. We pledge ourselves to create a new public opinion in the South, which will condone for any reason whatever acts of mobs or lynchers."

JACKSONVILLE, FLA.
TIMES UNION
MAR 1 5 1934

Anti-Lynching Group Called

Session to Be Held Monday in Church Building.

Mrs. William P. Cornell, chairman of the Florida Council of the Association of Southern Women for the Prevention of Lynching, announced through her office yesterday that she has called an open meeting of the Florida Council, at 3 P. M., Monday, in the Taliaferro Memorial Building of St. John's Episcopal Church, Market and Church Streets, to hear Mrs. Jessie Daniel Ames, of Atlanta.

Mrs. Ames is the executive director of the association and she comes to Jacksonville to meet with the Florida Council in a business session on the morning of March 19. Practically all members of the council, according to Mrs. Cornell, have signified their intention of attending this annual meeting. The extension of the program of the anti-lynching group will be discussed and plans made to inform and interest more of the men and women of the State in the effort to eradicate lynching, it was stated.

The open meeting is called for all members of the association and for all who wish to know more of its program.

The following women are members of the State Council:

Jacksonville, Mrs. William P. Cornell, chairman; Mrs. T. H. Crawford. Mrs. Walter S. Jones, Mrs. I. L. Kaplan, Mrs. M. M. Lander, Mrs. Malcolm McClelland, Mrs. Josephine K. Maner, Mrs. John L. Oldham, Mrs. J. D. Russell .Mrs. E. L. Vodermark, Mrs. Ralph E. Wendt, Mrs. Brooke White, Mrs. Edward Pfaff and Miss Grace Dalloz; Lakeland, Mrs. T. C. Banks; Mineola, Mrs. I. O. Woodley; Ocala, Mrs. G. J Rousseau; Orlando, Mrs. Edna Giles Fuller.

JACKSON, MISS.
NEWS
JUN 1 9 1934

WOMEN URGE DELTA NEGRO LYNCH PROBE

Anti-Lynching Society To Back Law Ousting Officers Losing Prisoners

Governor Conner today had no comment to make on a letter asking that he reopen investigation of the lynching of two delta negroes last week, after they confessed to a criminal attack on a white woman.

The letter, signed by six members of the executive committee of the Mississippi council of the Association of Southern Women for the Prevention of Lynching, contended that their investigation indicated the sheriff of Quitman county could have safely moved the negroes from Greenwood to the mob-proof Jackson jail before dark.

The negroes, Isaac Thomas and Joe Love, were hung from a bridge near Lambert, by a mob which sought them throughout the delta after they allegedly attacked the wife of a plantation manager near Sledge.

The letter from the five executive committee members concluded by saying that "we recommend that the next Legislature of Mississippi enact a law automatically removing from office any officers from whom a prisoner is taken and lynched."

After spending all day Monday at the governor's mansion, the governor found the letter awaiting him at his office today. He revealed its contents, but said he would have to study it and the report of District Attorney Greek Rice, Jr., before making any comment.

Committee members who signed the letter were Mrs. J. Morgan Stevens and Mrs. W. W. Epperson of Jackson; Mrs. L. W. Alford of McComb; Mrs. Myrtle Hicks of Holly Springs, and Mrs. Lester Greer of Potts Camp.

MERIDIAN, MISS.
STAR
JUN 1 9 1934

WHITE WOMEN'S GROUP ASKS FOR LYNCHING PROBE

JACKSON, Miss., June 19 (UP)—The executive committee of the Mississippi Women's Anti-Lynching organization Tuesday ~~asked Gov.~~ Sennett Conner to make a thorough investigation of the lynching of two negroes by a mob in Quitman county, June 8.

Addressing an open letter to the governor, the executive committee of the State Council of Women for the Prevention of Lynching asserted that Sheriff W. T. Haines of Quitman county knew of the lynching several hours before it occurred and that he had "ample time" to remove the prisoners to Jackson, where they would have been safe.

The executive committee also charged that Attorney General Greek Rice, Jr., reported to the governor that the case was "closed," although the bodies were still hanging from the bridge two hours before he filed his statement.

The governor was asked to "reopen this case for the purpose of clearing up those points which must appeal to all law-abiding citizens as in need of further investigation . . .

"We recommend that th next legislature enact a law automatically removing from office any officers from whom a prisoner is taken and lynched."

The communication was signed by Mrs. L. W. Alford of McComb; Mrs. J. Morgan Stevens and Mrs. W .W. Epperson of Jackson; Mrs. Myrtle Hicks of Holly Springs, and Mrs. Lester Greer of Potts Camp.

McComb, Miss. Journal
June 21, 1934

Mob Violence Protested By Local Woman

A McComb civic woman leader, Mrs. L. W. Alford, was one of the five women who this week signed a letter to Governor Conner as members of the Mississippi executive committee of the Association of Southern Women for the Prevention of Lynching, who demanded an investigation of the Quitman county officials from whom two negroes were last week taken and lynched following the negroes confession to having attacked a white woman.

In citing the double lynching, the committee stated that the case was declared "officially closed only two hours after the bodies of the victims had been cut down."

Declaring that the proper investigation of the case had not been conducted they asked Governor Conner to re-open the case for a more thorough investigation and for the purpose of determining who was to blame for the alleged laxity in law enforcement in the case.

In closing the committee recommended "that the next Legislature of Mississippi enact a law automatically removing from office any officers from whom a prisoner is taken and lynched."

Jackson, Miss., News
June 19. 1934

WOMEN URGE DELTA NEGRO LYNCH PROBE

Anti-Lynching Society To Back Law Ousting Officers Losing Prisoners

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Lynchings-1934
Discussions

Negro Press, (Northern)

4590

Eastern Shore of Maryland Always Cruel and Backward

Lloyds Who Owned Frederick Douglass Not Only Indecent But Murderous. First Teachers of Colored Schools After Civil War Chased by Mobs, Schools Burned.

By LEON GARDINER

Afro-American
1-6-34
Baltimore, Md.

The Eastern (Lynching) Shore of Maryland, notorious for two lynchings, has always been the most barbarous, backward and hungry section of the State.

Frederick Douglass declared that slavery was at its worst there. Because of its isolation, no healthy public sentiment tempered the wickedness of the slave masters.

After the Civil War, whites burned churches and schools wherever the Freedman's Bureau set up the first schools for colored people.

Last week the Eastern (Lynching) Shore set up at Easton, Md., its first chapter of the Daughters of the American Revolution. As old as this organization is, it is just reaching the Maryland backwoods.

The surprise lies, however, in its name. The women selected for its name, "Colonel Edward Lloyd, 4th," who, according to Mr. Douglass, was one of a line of rascally mean slaveholders.

Burning Up Schools and Churches.

General O. O. Howard, founder of Howard University, in his autobiography, vol. 2, page 273, tells of the Lynching Shore burnings as follows:

"The latter part of the year (1865) when the President's (Andrew Johnson) attitude was known to be unfriendly to anything except work, (for Negroes under the care of the Freedman's Bureau) there arose in several districts of Maryland sharp and organized opposition to all freedman's schools.

"Both teachers and children were chased and stoned in one town, Easton, by rough white men.

"Resolutions to drive out the teacher were passed in Dorchester; while unknown parties burned the church and school house in Kent County. Other such church edifices, used for schools, were burned in Cecil, Queen Anne, and Somerset Counties.

"This was [illegible] with a view to shut up existing schools and prevent new efforts. It was the burning of the buildings in this quarter, coupled with hostile feeling and action elsewhere, which more than any other one thing united the Republicans, radical and conservative, in Congress, and induced them to grant a universal suffrage.

"Hostile spirits declared that if the Negroes were allowed to read they would soon be permitted to vote. By their violence these men hastened the very consequences which they most feared."

Backward Shore.

Concerning the Lloyds and the backward Eastern (Lynching) Shore Frederick Douglass wrote in his biography. pages 40 and 42.

"Public opinion was, indeed, a measurable restraint upon the cruelty and barbarity of masters, overseers and slave-drivers, whenever and wherever it could reach them.

"But there were certain secluded and out-of-the-way places, even in the State of Maryland, fifty years ago, seldom visited by a single ray of healthy public sentiment, where slavery, wrapt in its own congenial darkness, could and did develop all its malign and shocking characteristics, where it could be indecent without shame, cruel without shuddering, and murderous without apprehension or fear of exposure or punishment.

"Just such a secluded, dark, and out-of-the-way place was the home plantation of Colonel Edward Lloyd (first owner of Frederick Douglass) near Easton, in Talbot County; Eastern Shore of Maryland.

"Though civilization was, in many respects, shut out, nature could not be. Though separated from the rest of the world, though public opinion, as I have said, could seldom penetrate its dark domain, though the whole place was stamped with its own peculiar iron-like individuality, and though crimes, highhanded and atrocious, could be committed there with strange and shocking impunity, it was, to outward seeming, a most strikingly interesting place, full of life, activity, and spirit."

THAT SHERIFF SHOULD RESIGN

Call
1-5-34
Kansas City, Mo.

The grand jury at St. Joseph, Mo. in calling for the resignation of the sheriff who surrendered his prisoner to the mob, took the only position which the law can take. That sheriff was an officer sworn to keep, not surrender prisoners. He chose to forego his duty and argues that his alternative was shooting into the mob.

The sheriff's excuses leave the impression that he is a very humane man. The truth is that he is short-sighted. Had he been forced to the terrible alternative of shooting in order to protect his prisoner, it would have cost lives. That is as far as he can see. As it is, he surrendered the prisoner but let loose a flood of blood lust which over the years will cost more lives. That is what society knows from experience. In the long run lives are safer where laws are upheld than where passion is given rein.

There is another view of the St. Joseph situation which is too little thought of in this country. Spectators as well as participants have a responsibility for lynching. It is the mob that nerves the few to commit acts which are horrible even to relate, much less to see and do. Only a morbid curiosity impels the many, but they are the high pressure which drives the actual perpetrators out of their Christian selves into beasts that cut and shoot and burn.

Had the sheriff shot into the mob, it would have been a warning forever that the law also has might and that all the deadly weapons are not on the side of the lawless. It might have meant political death for the sheriff, but at least it would have meant a new life for the law, whose servant he was elected and to whose service he was sworn.

After looking at the horror of what actually happened and the undesirable alternative of shooting down the lynchers, we are of the opinion that neither had to happen. Mobs have not always gotten their man. There was another sheriff in St. Joseph, with a prisoner far more implicated by evidence than this one, but the mob did not take him. The resolute figure of a sheriff who meant to shoot loomed in their path and they halted.

This sheriff whom the grand jury condemns was a weakling and the crowd knew it. He never meant to shoot and they knew that. They hustled him to one side. They talked with him and felt sure of his complicity in their act to the point of refusing to remember who represented the mob.

We will never quit talking about the lone black peace officer in Coffeyville who was Horatio at the bridge when the mob ran amuck in his city. Cool, calm, ready, though deserted by every fellow officer, he offered his single body to stop raging hundreds. Back to the wall, pistol in hand, he was enough because he was a man!

There are courageous white men. Every one of them is ashamed for their race when they think of this sheriff.

NEW ATTACK ON LYNCHING

Call 1-19-34
Kansas City, Mo.

If it is possible to collect damages from the bondsmen of the St. Joseph sheriff who surrendered his prisoner to a blood-thirsty mob, a precedent will be established which will be salutary. A county treasurer, sworn to care for money, is bonded for the performance of that duty and his bondsmen pay when he fails. A county sheriff, entrusted with money and lives, also has a bond. If he defaults with the money, his bondsmen expect to pay. The point raised in the suit brought by the mother of

Lloyd Warner, the victim of the St. Joseph mob, is that the sheriff, who did not protect life, failed in a duty covered by his bond.

Life is more than money. There is every reason why a sheriff who keeps books carefully in order to account for every cent that passes through his office, should be more careful of the lives of citizens who are in his charge. Though Lloyd Warner was accused of a heinous crime, at the time of his death his guilt had not yet been proven and therefore under the law he was innocent. Had Sheriff Thiesen given up to a mob a witness whom he was holding by court order, he would have been condemned universally. The sole reason for excusing him is the presumption of Warner's guilt. Carried to its logical conclusion, punishment under those circumstances was a denial of the right every citizen has to a trial. The weak under such a system would be the victims of the strong. Today, the mob; tomorrow, some gang; the next day a dictator exercising the power of life and death like the despots of old.

This suit for damages against a negligent sheriff, if won, will mean that accused persons can trust their safety to the law's officers. The innocent, who under present conditions join with the guilty in fleeing because of the menace of the mob, will then surrender voluntarily.

Both judges and juries are in the habit of interpreting the law and the facts so that they support established custom. Such a suit as this mother brings would have been treated with small consideration before public opinion turned against lynching. It remains to be seen whether condemnation of it has progressed to the point of penalizing it now.

Lynch law must go. The law must be lifted up so that all men will respect it. Undutiful officials are one of the factors in its decadence. If a new interpretation of present statutes can be made that will punish those who fail of their sworn duty, it will be a long step ahead.

In the case of this St. Joseph sheriff, the grand jury has already declared him in the wrong. Any defense he makes must be that between shooting the mob and surrendering the prisoner, he chose the lesser evil. The decision will be a test of public opinion. Has its opposition to lynching progressed to the point where it will say that he should have chosen to defend his prisoner, cost what it may?

4000 REDS MEET IN LYNCH TOWN

Afro American
2-3-34
Baltimore Md.

SAN JOSE Calif.—(W.S.)—Approximately 4,000 delegates from seven Western states arrived in this little town which became a national byword after takng two men from a jail and lynching them last Sunday morning for an anti-lynchig conference. The meeting was held in the same park which was the place where the lynching was committed, held by the International Labor Defense.

Langston Hughes was one of the speakers and denounced physical and moral lynching. Hughes said that Paul Robeson lynched the morals of Negro manhood when he played the role of Emperor Jones in the screen play of that name.

A demand was made by Hilton A. Phillips to arrest Governor Rolph as an abetter of mob murder and the arrest and conviction of dentified persons in the mob which strung up the two white kidnapers.

A resolution was also drawn up and sent to Governor Rolph, demanding his resignation. One was forwarded to President Roosevelt asking him to have the attorney general to proceed against the officers of Santa Clara county and the lynchers.

A. M. E. BISHOPS CONDEMN MOBS, RAP REPEAL

Afro american
2-17-34

Episcopal Message Laments Increase in Lawlessness.

URGE WIDER USE OF FRANCHISE

Prelates Want Speedy Merger of Schools.

Baltimore

JACKSON, Miss.—Lynching, lawlessness, kidnaping and the repeal of the prohibition amendment were denounced in the episcopal address read to the bishops' council of the A.M.E. Church by Bishop J. A. Gregg, of Kansas City, Thursday.

Bishop Gregg sounded the keynote for a wider outlook on national and world affairs in his address, declaring that the A.M.E. Church like other denominations, must take a keener interest in contemporary problems of the world.

Have Forgotten Christ

In discussing the economic situation, Bishop Gregg said:

"Large industrial firms seek to have uniformity of prices. Labor unions desire to starve out and kill off those who do not belong to their self-made institutions.

"Farmers demand higher prices for their products, and a market.

"Railroads insist on a more severe regulation of the automobile traffic.

"The political party which is in power has jobs and positions only for those of their faith, and others may starve out.

"Romanism scourges everything that is not submissive to the Pope. Bolshevists are against everything in general.

"Thus we see our great country in a turmoil, while the Prince of Peace is ignored and forgotten.

"It is our belief that the woeful state of economic conditions in which the world finds itself today, is summed up in that last sentence—that 'the Prince of Peace has been ignored and forgotten.'

Cheerful Attitude Prevails

"We are gratified to note," he continued, "that economic conditions are far better than they were when we last met. Unemployment has been greatly relieved, and although there is still much suffering and want, evidence of which is felt first by the church, yet we note a more cheerful mental attitude on the part of the people.

"We advise that it is the duty of the church to subscribe heartily to all righteous and honest recovery plans which will help to lift the world out of this morass of depression into which it has sunk.

No Fair Trial for Repeal

"At the same time, we feel that we must sound a note of warning against any false and detrimental schemes of recovery which might, perchance, add to doubtful material wealth, and yet bring in their wake a backwash of baneful, destructive results to our country.

"Certainly we can but deplore the repeal of the Eighteenth Amendment. It is our conviction that it was never **given a fair trial**, and we view with alarm the possibilities for harm of an unrestrained traffic in liquor. The phrase has become hackneyed, but we believe it none the less true, that a country cannot drink itself back into prosperity.

"No question is settled until it is settled right, and we venture the assertion that this question in America, will not be settled right until liquor is driven entirely from the land.

"We, therefore, reaffirm our position as being definitely against the manufacture and sale of intoxicating liquors.

Distribution of Wealth

"We feel that these many alphabetical recovery programs should be equitably and religiously planned so as to reach those most needy first. And we feel that any one in a position of honor and responsibility, who would not administer these reliefs fairly, without discrimination, is unworthy of the trust reposed in him.

"We believe that wealth should be more evenly distributed, but not as an aid to shiftlessness or laziness. We favor a curtailment of over-capitalism, but not to the extent of throttling initiative or business expansion.

Decent Living Wanted

"We ask that a fair chance be given every individual to make an honest and decent living, and that the labor markets be open so that all laborers be given the privilege of disposing of that one commodity—their labor; that every citizen be given the assurance that security for himself and his family are fostered by the state."

Condems Lynching

In discussing law enforcement the bishop declared:

"We stand for law enforcement against all manner of crime, and the support of all movements for its suppression."

President Roosevelt was lauded for his pronouncement against lynching, and Bishop Gregg said that:

"As leaders of the church we hereby and herein give our most earnest approval to the effort to make lynching a Federal offense and lynchers answerable to the Federal government, since it is fully demonstrated that the states are inadequate to cope with this terrible crime, which long since crossed racial boundaries and has become common in every section of the country.

Praise N.A.A.C.P.

"We wish here, in this connection, to express commendation for the splendid work done by the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People.

"This year marks, so we understand, the 25th anniversary of the organization; and we are sure that these years have been full of achievement of a most constructive character, for the good of the race; and we endorse the fine work this organization has done."

Use of Ballot Urged

The address urged more care in the selection of public servants and advocated increased use of the ballot as a weapon of the race for good.

A higher standard in the educational background of the ministry was stressed and it was also given as the wish of the episcopacy that the merger of schools and missionary societies which were ordered by the last General Conference be speeded to a successful termination.

Finances Discussed

Regarding the funds of the church, the message contained the following stipulation:

"We believe that our Connectional Boards are a very necessary part of our church machinery, but we are looking forward to the time when the yearly routine of those boards may be cared for by certified accountants and thus save vast amounts for some of our more urgent needs.

"We heartily endorse the desire for a budget system for the church and trust that the commission especially appointed for that work, will bring in a plan which the connection can adopt."

Lynchings-1934
Discussions.

Negro Press, Northern.
6

4591

Afro Unearths Secret Ku Klux Document in Alabama Encouraging Lynchings

By RALPH MATTHEWS

Fifty-Four-Page Pamphlet Prepared by Lawyer Urges Repeal of Fourteenth and Fifteenth Amendments. Calls Booker Washington, DuBois, Moton and DePriest "Mongrels." Warns I.L.D. to Keep Out of South. Condemns Higher Education for Negroes and Says All Rapists Should Have "Necks Cracked" Without Benefit of Trial. Kept Out of Hands of Negroes.

AFRO Staff Writer en Route Around America

GROVE HILL, Ala. — Woodford Mabry, a white attorney who makes his home here, is the author of a 54-page pamphlet being distributed secretly among the whites of Alabama, Georgia and Mississippi, labeled a "Reply to Southern Slanderers." In it he presents a defense of the lynch law in the South.

Afro-American
2-17-34
Baltimore, Md.

In his booklet, the author publishes an invitation to the International Labor Defense and all other associations advocating social and political equality to "get out of and remain away from the state of Alabama.

They Knew Each Other

In the foreword of the booklet are found these opening paragraphs:

"Until the advent of the International Labor Defense and similar organizations in the South with their dangerous teachings of social equality, never since emancipation had the relation between the white man and the law-abiding Negroes been so cordial, or the confidence of the Negroes in their white neighbors so strong. Let it remain so.

"Unless you keep out of our state with your dangerous teachings, beyond peradventure of doubt it will result in injury and untold harm to the poor ignorant Negro."

White Man's Country

The pamphlet says further:

"Speaking for myself, alone, I would make this in fact, as well as in theory, a white man's government. I would grant to all men the fullest legal rights but I would deny political privileges to the yellow man, the red man, the brown man and the black man.

Source of Friction Cited

"We do not need these people in our civil or military service. Their presence there is a source of constant friction, trouble and danger. It is better for the Negro himself to be deprived of privileges which cause him to be antagonized and which he is unfitted by nature to exercise.

"If the blacks do not wish to live under the rule of whites, let them return to their native land where they can hold office.

Owe Negro Nothing

"We owe the Negro nothing, we found him a naked, snake-worshipping savage and conferred upon him all the polish of civilization that he is competent to receive.

"We have taught him to use tools, opened to him all the avenues of knowledge and supplanted his serpent fetish with the Christian faith. Having lifted him out of savagery, we are under no obligation to bear him over on our shoulders.

Restrict Knowledge

"I would restrict the schooling of Negroes to reading, writing and arithmetic. As a general rule, that is as much as they can absorb to advantage.

"A Negro crammed on Latin, Greek or on physiology and geometry, is a ruined N——! After that he is too proud to work and has to live off the wages of some hired girl or industrious wife.

Educating Negroes Outrage

"The taxing of poor white people to furnish higher education for Negro wenches and sassy bucks is an Outrage upon the Whites and an injury to the Negroes. There is absolutely no place in this land for the arrogant, aggressive school-spoilt Afro-American who wants to live without manual labor.

No Political Power Either

"The only salvation for the Negro in America is the acceptance in good faith of his legal rights as the full measure of what is due him.

"The sooner he abandons his attempt to share political power and privileges with the whites, the better for him.

More Boostings

"The white man made this civilization. The Negro never made this or any other. He has degraded every governmental system that he has been allowed to influence.

"The yellow men and the brown men cease to be savages, evolve civilizations, erect temples, but the Negro in his native land sat squat in his degradation, moved by no inner promptings to lift himself or improve his surroundings.

Thinks North Misguided

"I believe that our Caucasian friends in the North have been misguided and misinformed and therefore have acted upon the idea that the Negro is a Caucasian painted black.

"As a duty to our forefathers, to ourselves and our posterity we must see to it that the Negro makes no Haitian hell of the United States.

Should Repeal Amendments

"White supremacy should be established by law. The fourteenth and fifteenth amendments of the constitution should be repealed.

"Laws making it a crime for the races to intermarry should be put in the statute books of every state in the United States.

"White children should not be permitted to attend the same schools as Negro children.

"All equality of social relations with Negroes should cease.

African (?) Depravity

"Africa has always been the home of the lowest type of humanity—the Negro. It is ridiculous to talk about the American Negro as the 'poor downtrodden race' and the duties which we owe him. The truth is that his position as a slave was better than anything he had ever known at home.

Superiority and Nature

"The Negro has always been what he is and always will be no matter how many books you rub into his head.

"Nature created him INFERIOR to the WHITE MAN and if ever the white man lowers his level to that of the Negro in the vain hope of lifting him up—THE CRIME AGAINST CIVILIZATION WILL BE PUNISHED BY THE MONGRELIZATION AND DEGENERATION OF BOTH RACES.

Negro Leaders

"You cannot judge the Negro race by a few Negroes like Booker Washington, DuBois, Moton and a few others.

The Zulu type is rare, the low Guinea type abounds. The Negroes with a suggestion of intellect are usually Negroes only in name—Mongrels in whose veins flow the blood of some depraved white man.

Black Preferred to Yellow by Whites

"The pure blood blacks who have exhibited intellectual and moral qualities superior to those of the monkey, are few and far between and yet the pure-blooded Ethiop is generally a much safer member of society than the 'yaller N——,' who appear to inherit the vices of both races and the virtues of neither.

Peeve at DePriest

"Left in his own country the Negro would never have known what it means to be called 'mister' and 'doctor', 'professor,' 'bishop' and we never would have had a black judge, U.S. Consul or Congressman from the state of Illinois like DePriest.

Lynching Defended

"The Southern white man is the best friend the Negro has ever had or will ever have, so long as he behaves himself and obeys the laws of the land.

"It seems strange to me that whenever a black fiend is lynched in the South for his hellish crime, the Negro leaders and their white Northern sympathizers never waste a tear upon the white woman who has been overtaken by a fate worse than death.

The South Loves Lynching

"The South does not love lynching as an inhuman sport but sees in it a grim and speedy form of retribution for sins which the laws do not always and with promptness punish. The day will never come in the state of Alabama or the South when Negroes will be permitted to sit on juries. Negroes must and shall always be tried by juries of their 'peers'—white men who are more than their equals, outside interference notwithstanding.

Is Red Blooded

"I am not an advocate of 'lynch law' but I have red blood in my veins and I believe it is no more contemptible to string a Negro up in the face of high heaven than it is to pounce upon an unprotected white woman and defile her.

Lawyers Called Shysters

"We believe that when such desperate criminals are caught and their guilt established beyond question, the proper thing to do is to crack their necks with the least possible delay instead of saddling ourselves with the expense of long and tedious trials and affording the unemployed shyster lawyers of New York an opportunity to prevent justice and turn the offenders loose on the land."

A SOUTHERN LYNCHER'S PRAYER

Defender
2-24-34
Chicago

"O LORD, OUR GOD, WE COME TO THEE IN CONTRITE HEART, IN IMPLORING AID

"Help us, O Lord, to tear apart the black bodies of our victims into bloody threads. Help us, O Lord, to cover their smiling faces with the terror of our brutalizing instincts. Help us, O Lord, to drown out their cry for mercy by the thundering peal of our murderous guns. Give us strength, O Lord, to continue to lay waste their humble homes with hurricanes of fire.

"Help us, O Lord, to wring the hearts of their unoffending widows and children with unavailing grief and turn them out roofless to wander unbefriended through swamps, desolation and misery. ' For our sake, O Lord blast their lives with the poison of our prejudice; prolong their bitterness that we and our kind of the white South may know that Thou art God.

"We are not unmindful that our lust and uncontrolled passion have thrown us with compelling force into concubinage with many of their women until many of our own sons and daughters are hardly distinguishable in their midst, but Thou knoweth, O Lord, that we cannot sin against them because they are black. Help us, O Lord, to keep alive our propaganda of racial hate and give us increasing power over the ignorant members of our own race that we may keep their minds inflamed with the hypocritical pretense of rape, for this, O Lord, is our only defense. Help us to continue to suppress the truth wherever any attempt is made to use it in defense of the blacks, and by all means help us to discredit the well meaning and noble white men and women of the South who are striving to banish our despicable institutions. This we ask, O Lord, in the name of Him who taught us to 'Love thy neighbor as thyself.'

"AMEN!"

English Newspaper Scores American Lynching Orgy

3-3-34

NEW YORK, March 2.—A copy of the Liverpool Echo, an influentia English newspaper, has been received at the office of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People here, containing a scathing feature article by Harold Butcher, American correspondent.

Charging that "the clue to lynching is largely economic," the article says, "The swift terror of lynching faces the Negro who gets 'uppitty.' His employers want to keep him as a cheap tool in the labor market; even NRA is permitting differential wage scales against Negroes as compared with whites. But a cheap Negro is bad for a white worker, whose chances of a job is jeopardized by the Colored man who will work for less. It is a vicious circle leading to perpetual terror, especially in districts where Negro citizens outnumber whites."

Citing the N. A. A. C. P. lynching statistics and Walter White's statement on "the futility of depending on local officials to stamp out mob violence," the articles declares that the excuse of the "usual crime" is generally without foundation. It goes on to say: "Often these assault charges are untrue. They merely serve, like war atrocity stories, as a convenient weapon to inflame the mob. In many ways other than attacking white women the Negroes have 'qualified' for lynchings."

Asserting that the recently introduced Costigan-Wagner federal lynching bill would be a boon, the article concludes: "Perhaps at no time since the days of 'Uncle Tom's Cabin' have Negroes been so near to slavery as they are today."

HEAD HUNTING AND LYNCHING

Crisis 4-34

ELIZABETH EASTMAN, writing in the April Woman's Press, quotes an American army officer on the effectiveness of a law in the Philippines similar to the proposed Costigan-Wagner Anti-Lynching bill.

It was, he said, impossible to eliminate the evil practice of head-hunting until a law was passed fining the county or district in which the crime was committed, after every other method had failed. Following several impositions of this stiff fine, the old practice of head-hunting, hallowed by tradition, promptly ended.

This is something to think about for those who say the $10,000 county fine provided in the Costigan-Wagner bill will not stop lynching. It is to be doubted that Southern County residents will be less willing to prevent large fines being imposed than were the Filipinos.

LYNCH LAW MAKES COWARDS

3-2-34

The American people think of lynching as a method of dispensing justice, a little irregular, but of good intent. Instead it is a canker, destroying the manliness of the nation and converting it into a race of cowards.

In a world where the weaker are constantly crushed under foot, cowardice is suicide. For that reason lynching, the American system under which a thousand white men unite to kill and burn a single fellow being, will either be laid aside as impracticable or it will make white people "lose face" and set the darker people to throwing off the yoke of their domination.

Of old, men built up courage in the indivdual. Their games and their wars put a high value on individual prowess. David and Goliath is a classical example of what was manly in their day. Compare them with the thousand whites it takes to kill one unarmed Negro, today!

Among the Chinese and Japanese "face" is a social necessity. Be what you may, "face" requires you to appear to be what you ought to be. For "face's" sake, the weak act like heroes. The desire to be well thought of makes everybody do his best.

Lynching promotes exactly the reverse condition. The lyncher is essentially a coward, a skulker who hides behind others. Governors and members of Congress may defend him, judges and juries may acquit him, but nothing will give him the courage to try to dispense justice single-handed. None of the spirit of the old west in him. The head-hunter back in the jungle puts his own life to hazard when he goes out to kill. But the lyncher must have a mob at his back and a feeling that for him there is no penalty. Yet the lynchers are Americans, heirs of the pioneers who built an empire from sea to sea!

White superiority in foreign lands is not a thing of numbers. The individual, not the pack, imposed white dominion on Africa, and did such a good job of it that single white men go everywhere on that continent undisturbed by the multitude around them.

It would be retribution of the kind depicted in the old Greek tragedies if this much talked of white superiority should be exposed by the follies of its most insistent advocates, the cowardly lynchers. Their brag and bluster deserve some such colossal return. When it takes pistol and club, ice pick and firebrand in the hands of a thousand men to punish one unarmed Negro, the expenditure of effort gets too small a return. Because its chief by-product is cowardice, lynch law must go!

LYNCHING CHANGES STYLE

6-29-34

To a Tennessean, McKellar, goes the dubious honor of having blocked the vote in the Untied States senate on the Costigan-Wagner anti-lynching measure. And to Tennessee goes the distinction of having lynched a Negro for slapping a white man.

Before lynching got above fear of the law, the lynchers used to excuse their hellishness by saying summary punishment was the just deserts of the Negro rapist. The South has lynched for all manner of alleged acts. It has even lynched women and the members of an accused person's family. Yet, because it said it lynched only for rape, the gullible American public has assumed that all whom it lynched were rapists.

Now comes Tennessee in glorification of its Senator McKellar and lynches for a slap. A white man received a blow. An affront we admit. But what was he doing at a Negro dance, if he held his person too sacred to take whatever might befall there. The news does not say why the Negro slapped him.

If it was in defense of a woman, the cause which is most likely, then that slap, though it cost a life, is a glory to Negro manhood.

State after state has black laws which take from Negro womanhood the protection of statutes which safeguard white women. Negro men must make up the difference. To our way of thinking this victim of lynching is a martyr, the seed of a reform, insisted upon by decent Negroes and considerate white people, which in time must be granted by the wrong kind of both races.

Move Out of the Lynching Belt

6-30-34

A mob of Kirbyville, Texas, white men and women hanged Lon Griggs, 30, last week, shot his body full of holes, dragged it behind [illegible] for [illegible] and then dumped [illegible] near a box factory at Newton.

Griggs wasn't among the first citizens of Kirbyville or Newton. He had been arrested on charges of vagrancy and keeping a disorderly house.

Nothing uncommon about that. There are disorderly houses and red light areas from Washington to California.

Griggs's crime was not that he was keeper of a dive or a member of the underworld; but that he associated in his brothel with a white woman.

So Texas has a lynching, and our South Carolina Senator Smiths and our Louisiana Senator Longs declare no Federal anti-lynching bill is necessary, because states can put down their own mobs.

Every section of the United States must be made safe from mob law, or none of it safe.

While every effort is being made to have a Federal anti-lynching bill enacted, our Southern people can help by leaving the lynching areas.

Liberty, life, happiness cost sacrifice. From the Lynching Shore of Maryland to the mob areas of Texas, let the people move into cities and counties and states where life is safe and law and order prevail. It is our own fault if we continue to live in lawless regions, knowing that we have no protection but that of our own right arm.

Let those who will not move arm themselves with shot guns, machine guns, and bombs. No one who thinks little of his own life can expect others to place a high value on it.

Lynchings-1934
Discussions.

Negro Press, Northern-

4592

The Fight Must Continue

Amsterdam News
9-14-34
New York
N.Y.

THE LYNCHING of Andrew McCloud at Bastrop, La., on Monday night should serve to fire every Negro in the country to press with all the facilities at its command for the enactment of an anti-lynching bill in the next Congress. Unfortunately, President Roosevelt could not see the wisdom of asking Congress to pass the Costigan-Wagner measure this spring, and the anti-mob bill was permitted to remain in committee until both houses adjourned.

Since that time three men have been lynched. At the Bastrop murder party the district attorney is said to have come to the unguarded jail and stated to the mob hammering away at the walls:

"I sympathize with your attitude, but I'm afraid you will get into trouble."

We doubt that the prosecutor or any other official had any idea of "making trouble" for the lynchers, for he has done nothing about the murder, and the sheriff is "unable" to identify a single member of the mob, although Bastrop is a small town, with a population of 5,000.

Nothing less than a stringent Federal anti-lynching law will curb such murderers and the authorities who condone their acts. The fight against mob rule must not be abandoned. Your brother or cousin might be the next victim!

WELL, WHY NOT?

Courier 7-21-34
Pittsburgh, Pa.

A mob of 300 perspiring whites surrounded the flimsy jail at Bastrop, Louisiana, a few days back, and bayed for the blood of Andrew McCloud, 26-year-old Negro, alleged to have "confessed" that he tried to attack a girl of the other group.

Two scared Negro prisoners inside the jail cried "Batter down the side of the building and we'll throw him out to you," according to the press reports. The mob immediately went into action, tearing down a telephone pole for the purpose.

District Attorney F. W. Hawthorne, sworn to uphold the laws and constitution of Louisiana and of the United States, told the sweating destroyers of public property, "I sympathize with your attitude, but I'm afraid you'll get into trouble."

"If you sympathize with us," retorted one of the mob leaders, "why don't you take off that straw hat and take a hold of this telephone pole?"

Well, why not? Why shouldn't the District Attorney aid in the actual lynching? He sympathized with the lynchers, did he not? He was standing idly by, making no effort to halt the festivities, was he not?

He was an accessory to the murder of this innocent Negro. Before the law District Attorney Hawthorne is as much a killer as any brute in the mob; as guilty as the beast who pulled the rope; as culpable as the fiend who dragged the hapless Negro back to the noose after the rope had once broken.

If there were an Anti-Lynching law on the Federal statutes, District Attorney Hawthorne, the Bastrop sheriff and many of the brutes who participated in that lynching would be in jail. Or the lynching never would have occurred.

But there is no Anti-Lynching law, and the Bastrop lynching is another reason why we need one. Election time is at hand. Among other demands, Negro voters should insist that all candidates seeking their vote go on record as favoring a Federal Anti-Lynching law, whether or not, if elected, they will be permitted to vote for one. We must line up not only United States Congressmen and Senators, but State and local officials as well.

There must be an Anti-Lynching law, or there will be many other Bastrops; many other district attorneys saying "I sympathize with your attitude" to mobs of morons beseiging jails.

The Negro Lynchers

Amsterdam News
8-31-34
New York
N.Y.

BLACK AMERICA IS seething with indignation this week because a mob of Negroes lynched another Negro at Shreveport, La., last Friday. Superficial race patriots are decrying the action and declaring that the Shreveport incident has sabotaged the fight against the country's greatest evil.

The Amsterdam News cannot concur in the latter opinion. Neither can we grow more indignant over the lynching of Grafton Page by a mob of Negroes than over the lynching of countless Negroes by mobs of whites. It is hard, if not impossible, to see the difference between the two incidents. Grafton Page was not the victim merely of a Negro mob; he was the victim of an American system.

It was inevitable that a Negro should be lynched by Negroes sooner or later. Negroes, despite their position on the outer fringe of our civilization, are innately Americans. And as such they observe the customs and perpetuate the traditions of their native land. Reading the same periodicals, wearing the same clothes, following the same leaders, they cannot be expected to do other than experience the same reactions. Therefore Grafton Page was lynched primarily by Americans—incidentally by Negroes.

And, of course, nothing will be done to the Shreveport lynchers. The fact that the victim was a Negro done to death by other Negroes will play a small part in the subsequent events, but the murderers will escape punishment primarily because it is not the custom in this country to mete out justice to lynchers.

The death of Grafton Page should not sabotage the fight against America's greatest evil. Instead, it should intensify it—especially among Negroes. In demanding the passage of an anti-lynching bill now, they will not only be fighting to protect themselves from others, they will be fighting to protect themselves from themselves.

LYNCHING TOLL MOUNTS DAILY

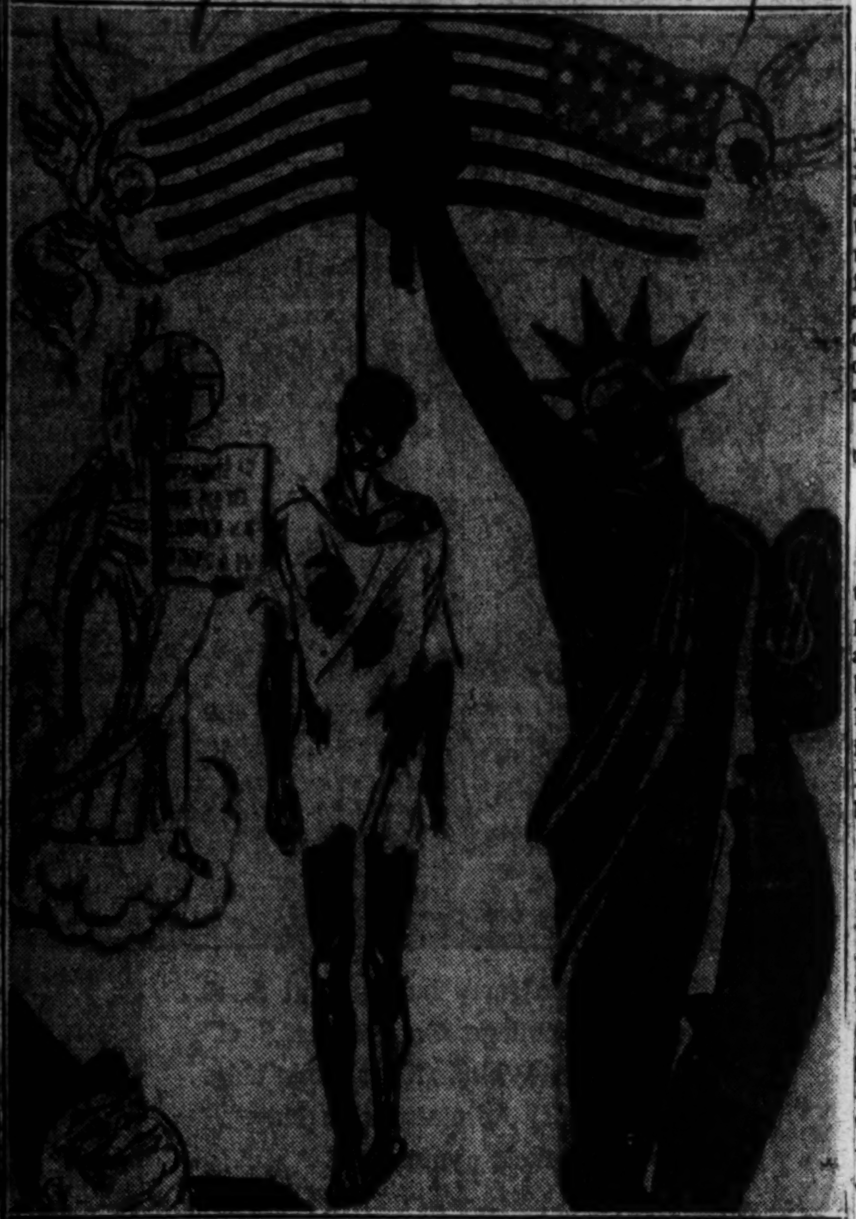
Call
8-31-34
Kansas City
Mo.

Mark the difference between the public attitude in two crimes reported in the news of the week. In Texas a white man committed rape, his guilt being established by his victim and her husband. He was taken from the scene of his crime to prevent his being lynched. In Florida a Negro is in hiding who is accused of rape, and the story of the search for him indicates he will be killed on sight. No identification will be attempted, no crime will be proved. Any Negro found in the neighborhood under search will pay with his life for the American habit of assuming Negro guilt.

In time, education will train the American people out of their disposition to kill first and then justify their act instead of investigating crimes alleged to have been committed by Negroes. But if this change follows the rule, it will come only when the old system has gone to such excesses that the public is nauseated. The sensible thing to do is to follow the advice of the Rocky Mountain News, a daily paper published in Senator Costigan's state, whi[illegible]as the following to say editorially:

> From January 1 to June 1, there were two lynchings in the United States. Since June 1, there have been 12 lynchings.
>
> Prior to June 1, the Costigan-Wagner federal anti-lynching bill was a live issue in congress. It provided drastic federal punishment of lynchers and local officers who fail to resist lynch mobs, and assessed heavy fines against the communities in which lynchings occur. Apparently this threat of federal interference was a strong deterrent to lynching in the first five months of the year.
>
> This threat was removed about June 1 when the Costigan-Wagner bill was pigeon-holed. Since that date, mob murders have proceeded at the rate of more than one a week. In none of the instances have lynchers been punished, nor is it likely that any will be punished.
>
> The National Association for the Advancement of Colored People has appealed to President Roosevelt to insist at the opening of the next congressional session upon passage of federal anti-lynching legislation. "The parade of bold mob murders," says the association, is proof that "the states are unwilling or unable to check lynching and that the only method left is the invocation of the power of the federal government."
>
> At the next session of congress, the President should give to the Costigan-Wagner bill more than his tacit approval.

AS RUSSIA SEES US!



Defender 9-15-34 Chicago

—Acme Photo

This poster, recently placed on exhibition at the Byron House, St. James, London, shows what the rest of the world knows and thinks about the American idea of justice. It was drawn by a citizen of the Soviet Union and was entered in the international poster exhibition as Russia's contribution to the campaign to wipe out persecutions of minority groups.

A Note to the President

11-10-34

THE ELECTION IS over, Mr. Roosevelt. Your golden silence in the brutal kidnap-murder of 23-year-old Claude Neal of Florida has been repaid. The South—rather, that mob-minded portion which seems to dominate the section—has returned the majority of your New Deal senators and representatives to Washington and has shown its appreciation of your tact in the Neal case.

Now that you have settled the all-important matter of practical politics, isn't it possible for you to consider at this time the more abstract matters of Justice, the Constitution? You may speak

You may speak freely now, Mr. President. None of the local or national New Deal candidates can be hurt at this late date if you ask Attorney General Homer S. Cummings to prosecute the murderers of Claude Neal under the Lindbergh anti-kidnap law. If you doubt your right to proceed in this direction, you have but to read this editorial of October 29 from the "Boston Daily Globe" (whose readers have votes, too). The article, preserved by the N. A. A. C. P., states:

"The Federal statutes cover this case thoroughly, not only in respect to the kidnaping phase but equally in respect to the fact that death resulted to the person kidnaped—which calls for the death penalty for the guilty. Other Federal laws were infringed. The use of automobiles for the commission of a crime of interstate nature is a Federal offense. Invasion of one state by armed groups from another state is a Federal offense. This case calls for the immediate assignment of Department of Justice agents in the name of public authority."

The election is over, Mr. President. Your silence is no longer golden—even to you.

HEAD-HUNTERS IN ACTION

News flashes from Florida inform the world that the head-hunters and human ghouls comprising the citizenry of Brewton, Ala., Chipley and Marianna, Florida, had another Roman holiday, October 27. The occasion was the lynching of Claude Neal, upon whom suspicion fell for the murder of Lola Cannidy (white). No evidence connecting Neal with the murder beyond suspicion had been obtained.

The head-hunters of the three respective communities had arranged for the murder of Neal the day before the lynching took place. This information was obtained from Sheriff J. R. Harrell, of Washington county, who was informed by the "lynching committee" as to the place and time the festivities would take place. This fact was attested to by Sheriff Harrell, who said on Friday, "Neal will be taken to Greenwood, Florida, early tonight, tied to a stake and let the girl's father do whatever he desires."

The crowd formed at the time and place designated by the sheriff and after a humorous address made by a member of the Florida legislature, the program was carried out. It is interesting to learn that a member of the law-making body of the house of representatives of the state of Florida took part in the program. It is highly commendable to the citizens of Florida to know that they have among their law-makers such a distinguished personage.

Charity forbids serious condemnation of the lower strata of Florida's citizenry when her public officials lead lynchers. Little can be said for Brewton, Ala. It has always been looked upon as a community so steeped and engulfed in hate and prejudice against black people as to make it a place to be despised by all civilized people.

ONE DIES, THE OTHER GOES FREE

We hardly know whether to make the latest lynching in Florida reason for rejoicing or the text for an anti-lynching preachment. We incline toward the former when we consider that Florida which has been as unconcerned about its lynchings as it was about baseball games or Sunday school picnics, in this case did two unusual things—it took into account the likelihood that extreme violence would break loose when the lynchers went into action, and the authorities sent troops to restore order.

11-12-34

Hitherto the Floridans and other practitioners of the ancient and sadistic rite of lynching have maintained that it was justice's highest expression, an outraged people actively engaged in maintaining the moral law. We feel like rejoicing to learn that at last they see a flaw in their highly touted perfect plan, and are not so sure as formerly that the "best citizens" are in charge of the ceremonies.

We are pleased also to learn that Florida has a governor and a law which permits the use of troops to bring about order. That's news! In that state—and some others—the governors have been so quick to defend the lynchers that one had to assume defense was the only line of conduct open to them. It now appears that lynching does violate law, and is followed by conditions which the state does not like. That's surprising good news.

One would think that it was the act which was so reprehensible. Quite the contrary. It is only when rape is charged to a Negro that indignation rises to the point of making it a capital offense. In another southern state, the governor has pardoned 114 rapists, all white. Their imprisonment indicates that they were all guilty. This Florida Negro was only alleged to be guilty. Evidently it is worse for a Negro to be charged with rape than for a white man to be proved guilty of it, because the mob kills the one, and permits the other to come out of prison and rejoin his fellows.

Lynchings-1934
Discussions.

~~Negro~~ Press, Northern.

4593

Howard Law Dean Insists Uncle Sam Punish Neal Lynchers; "Remember Lindbergh Case!"

Challenges Attorney General's Statement That Neal and Lindbergh Cases Differ In Point of Law and Federal Government Has No Jurisdiction.

11-10-34

WASHINGTON, Nov. 8—(ANP)—Challenging published statements of Attorney General Homer Cummings to the effect that the Lindbergh kidnaping act does not apply to the kidnaping and lynching of Claude Neal in Florida two weeks ago, the senior law class at Howard University. Chas. Houston, dean, has wired statements to President Roosevelt and Mr. Cummings, insisting that the federal law specifically provides for action in such cases:

The wire to President Roosevelt reads:

"Department of Justice asserts no federal jurisdiction to investigate and prosecute murderers of Claude Neal lynched last Friday near Marianna, Fla. In so doing Attorney General repudiates 1934 Amendment to Lindbergh law introduced in Congress at his very request to give federal authority jurisdiction in all interstate kidnaping regardless of reason. The senior law class of Howard University urges you to bring influence of your office to bear on the Department of Justice to compel it to recognize and enforce the very law which it promoted and sponsored. The class also urges you to make public declaration against lynching and your support of an effective federal anti-lynching bill in view of constant failure of state machinery to check lynching and punish the lynchers."

In similar vein was the wire to Mr. Cummings:

"Newspapers quote your Department as stating no federal jurisdiction in case of lynching of Claude Neal kidnaped in Alabama last Thursday, transported to Florida and lynched last Friday. In view of fact Department of Justice itself sponsored 1934 Amendment to Lindbergh law making interstate kidnaping for any reason a federal offense. The senior class of Howard University regards the position of the Department of Justice as a repudiation of its former position and a surrender for its trust to the entrenched forces of lawlessness and race hatred. We call upon you for the same vigorous enforcement of the amended Lindbergh law in the Claude Neal kidnaping as your department showed in tracking down Hauptmann, Bailey and the other criminals who kidnaped for ransom."

The original Lindbergh Act read: "Whoever shall knowingly transport or cause to be transported, or aid or abet in transporting, in interstate or foreign commerce, any person who shall have been unlawfully seized, confined, inveigled, decoyed, kidnaped, abducted, or carried away by any mans whatsoever and held for ransom or reward shall, upon conviction, be punished by imprisonment in the penitentiary for such term of years as the court, in its discretion, shall determine * * *"

As amended the Act states: "Whoever shall knowingly transport or cause to be transported, or aid or abet in transporting, in interstate or foreign commerce, any person who shall have been unlawfully seized, confined, inveigled, decoyed, kidnaped, abducted, or carried away by any means whatsoever and held for a ransom or reward or otherwise, except, in the case of a minor by a parent thereof, shall, upon conviction, be punished (1) by death if the verdict of the jury shall so recommend, provided that the sentence of death shall not be imposed by the court if, prior to its imposition, the kidnaped person has been liberated unharmed, or (2) if the death penalty shall not apply nor be imposed the convicted person shall be punished by imprisonment in the penitentiary for such term of years as the court in its discretion shall determine * * *"

In its report to the Senate Judiciary committee, the Department of Justice, speaking of the words "or otherwise" in the amendment, said the purpose of the words was "to extend the jurisdiction of this act to persons who have been kidnaped and held, not only for reward, but for any other resaon."

Attorney Gen'l Cummings, Does This Act of Congress Apply to the Fla. Lynchers?

Afro-American, Baltimore, Md. 11-3-34

AN ACT

To amend the Act forbidding the transportation of kidnaped persons in interstate commerce.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled, That the Act of June 22, 1934 (U.S.C., ch. 271, title 18, sec. 408a), be, and the same is hereby, amended to read as follows:

"Whoever shall knowingly transport or cause to be transported, or aid or abet in transporting, in interstate or foreign commerce, any person who shall have been unlawfully seized, confined, inveigled, decoyed, kidnaped, abducted, or carried away by any means whatsoever and held for ransom or reward or *otherwise*, except, in the case of a minor, by a parent thereof, shall, upon conviction, be punished (1) by death if the verdict of the jury shall so recommend, provided that the sentence of death shall not be imposed by the court if, prior to its imposition, the kidnaped person has been liberated unharmed, or (2) if the death penalty shall not apply nor be imposed the convicted person shall be punished by imprisonment in the penitentiary for such term of years as the court in its discretion shall determine: *Provided,* That the failure to release such person within seven days after he shall have been unlawfully seized, confined, inveigled, decoyed, kidnaped, abducted, or carried away shall create a presumption that such person has been transported in interstate or foreign commerce, but such presumption shall not be conslusive.

"SEC. 2. The term 'interstate or foreign commerce', as used herein, shall include transportation from one State, Territory, or the District of Columbia to another State, Territory, or the District of Columbia, or to a foreign country, or from a foreign country to any State, Territory, or the District of Columbia.

"SEC. 3. If two or more persons enter into an agreement, confederation, or conspiracy to violate the provisions of the foregoing Act and do any overt act toward carrying out such unlawful agreement, confederation, or conspiracy, such person or persons shall be punished in like manner as hereinbefore provided by this Act."

Approved, May 18, 1934.

Florida Rumors Say That Claude Neal Was Innocent

Age 11-17-34 New York

The National Association for the Advancement of Colored People received a letter on November 9 from one of its members in Florida expressing the belief that Claude Neal, who was kidnapped from the Brewton, Ala., jail and lynched near Marianna on October 26, was innocent.

"I thnik I voice the sentiment of a large number of people," the writer says, when I say that an innocent man(Claude Neal) has been lynched. It was reported that clothes with bloodstains on them were found at Neal's home, those causing him to become the object of suspicion and lynching. It is said that those clothes are retained in the jail at Marianna and they are not Neal's clothes. It is said that a white man who killed the white girl sent those clothes to Neal's to be washed by his mother. These may or may not be the facts, but they deserve investigation. Living as I do where it is easy to incite a mob I realize that it is dangerous for me or any other man, . . . to write or say too much. So I am giving you a hint of some things which are being said here with reference to the matter."

The Association is keeping the name of its informant secret and is activiely engaged in investigating the background and details of the lynching.

WAS CLAUDE NEAL GUILTY?

That Claude Neal, victim of the savage fury of a Marianna, Fla., mob, was in all probability innocent, is the news sent from Florida to the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People.

Courier

The bloody clothes found in Neal's house are said to have been brought there by a white man for Neal's mother to wash, and they constitute the "evidence" which gave the mob the excuse to wreak its sadistic rage on the hapless Negro. 11-17-34

It is a plausible story. Negroes have heard it so many times before. It has been true so often. It is probably true in this case.

Pittsburgh, Pa.

But we shall never know. Southern "justice" held no trial. It seldom does, and then its trials are a mockery.

Views Of Other Editors

IS THIS KIDNAPING ILLEGAL?

(From The Pittsburgh Press)

Courier

11-17-34

Pittsburgh, Pa.

Claude Neal, a Negro, was taken by a mob from the Brewton (Ala.) jail, dragged across the State line and lynched in the woods near Marianna, Fla.

The Justice Department says that the Lindbergh kidnaping law does not give it power to prosecute members of the mob.

The Lindbergh law says that punishment shall be inflicted upon all persons found guilty of transporting across a State line "any person who shall have been unlawfully seized, confined, inveigled, decoyed, kidnaped, abducted or carried away by any means whatsoever and held for ransom or reward or otherwise."

Claude Neal was not "confined," or "inveigled," nor "decoyed." He was not held for "ransom" nor for "reward." Decidedly not.

But Claude Neal was "unlawfully seized" from the custody of Alabama authorities. He was "kidnaped." He was "abducted." He was "carried away." And he was held "otherwise" than for ransom or reward. Decidedly so.

The lawyers of the Justice Department say, in effect, that the kidnapers of Claude Neal wiped out their identity as kidnapers when they became the lynchers of Claude Neal. They say, in effect, that although the Federal government punishes kidnapers who try to extort money from the family of the victim, it does not punish kidnapers who merely take the life of the victim.

According to this mob members would have incurred the wrath of the Federal government had they held him alive and unharmed, demanding that his family pay $100—which is probably more than the family possesses—for his release. But since the mob tortured him, hanged him, and ghoulishly mutilated and exhibited his body, they purged themselves of any violation of the Federal law.

If that is the law, it is a travesty of justice. At least, the Justice Department should test the law in the courts.

Secret Romance Led to Last Florida Lynching, Charge

Claude Neal and Lola Cannidy Were Reared Together.

Afro-American

SHE THREATENED TO TELL OFAY ON HIM

11-24-34

Mob Chased Lynch Victim 210 Miles.

Baltimore, Md.

NEW YORK — An alleged secret interracial romance between Claude Neal, the victim of the Florida mob and Lola Cannidy the white girl he is accused of murdering, stands revealed as the direct cause of the lynching, the N.A.A.C.P. announced this week after an investigation.

Determined to secure the "inside" of the Marianna affair, the N.A.A.C.P. employed a young southern white man to go to Marianna and make an investigation before the situation cooled down. The N.A.A.C.P. is appealing for funds to print his entire report, a document of 5,000 words, so that it can be distributed to aid in the fight against lynching.

Worked on Cannidy Farm

The report deals with an alleged romance between Neal and Miss Cannidy in the following words:

"Claude Neal and Lola Cannidy had always lived in the same neighborhood. Mrs. Smith's home Neal's mother, was just across the road from the Cannidy home. Neal had played with the Cannidy children and when he was large enough to work, worked on the Cannidy farm.

"For some months, and possibly for a period of years, Claude Neal and Lola Cannidy had been having intimate relations with each other. The nature of their relationship was common knowledge in the colored community.

"Some of his friends had advised him of the danger of the relationship and had asked him not to continue it.

"Miss Cannidy, it seems, desired to break the relationship existing between herself and Neal and the fatal meeting was pre-arranged for the purpose of arriving at some understanding. At the meeting in the woods Miss Cannidy told Neal that she did not want him to speak to her again and that if he did so she would tell the white men in the community on him. (Should Miss Cannidy have 'told on him' it would have meant certain death.)

"When she told Neal that she wanted to 'quit' and further threatened to 'tell on him,' he 'got mad and killed her.' Neal later told a friend what had happened and is reported to have told the friend, 'When she said she didn't want me to speak to her and then told me that she'd tell the white men on me, I just got mad and killed her.'"

Chased Him 210 Miles

Neal was arrested for the murder on October 19 and a "confession" was said to have been wrung from him during "private questioning" in a clump of woods.

Sheriff W. F. Chambliss, aware of the lynching spirit, ordered Neal taken to Chipley, Fla., twenty miles away. Angry Chipley crowds caused the sheriff there to order Neal moved to Panama City. From here he was taken by boat to Pensacola. From Pensacola Neal was taken across the state line to Brewton, Ala. Brewton is 210 miles from Marianna.

The investigator charges the removal from Pensacola to Brewton was equivalent to lynching Neal. He said the prisoner should have been kept in Pensacola or moved to Mobile.

The investigator was informed that a prominent business man of Marianna had arranged with friends in Pensacola to inform him when Neal was removed from that city. As soon as it was learned Neal was in the little town of Brewton, thirty automobiles set out from Florida and took Neal from the Brewton jail early on the morning of October 26.

With their screaming prisoner in the first car, the caravan of cars streaked back from Brewton to Marianna over highway No. 231. When they arrived they found their newspaper announcement and a radio broadcast from Dothan, Ala., station, was bringing crowds from all over the South. "A committee" decided to take Neal to the woods and torture him, meanwhile announcing that he would not be killed until the crowd grew smaller. They were afraid someone "would get hurt in the crush."

Ruminations

By J. A. ROGERS

Amsterdam News

12-8-34

New York, N.Y.

Congressman Celler On Lynching Evil.

LEARNING that Congressman Emanuel Celler, ranking member of the House Judiciary Committee, was to speak at the Holy Trinity Baptist Church, Brooklyn, on Sunday [illegible] hoping to hear about the proposed anti-lynching bill [illegible] was not disappointed. Mr. Celler told of the stiff opposition awaiting the measure in committee chiefly from Southern members, but he pledged his support of the bill in a manner that rang true. The supporters of lynch-law in Congress will, I am confident, have to reckon with him.

During his address Congressman Celler made, however, a fundamental error when he attributed lynching chiefly to the impatience of the populace with the slowness of the law. As regards the lynching of white people this is true but not so in the case of Negroes. Later, I was happy to hear the pastor, the Rev. Thomas S. Harten, who always mixes very effectively some race with his religion, point to what I believe is the source of the evil.

• • •

Need for Education.

IN THE COURSE of one of the most moving, colorful, and dynamic addresses I have ever heard anywhere, Dr. Harten laid it squarely to the training of the white youth, particularly of past generations, which was taught that a colored person had no rights that a white one was bound to respect and that Negroes owed special deference to white people. Hence colored people were lynched for even omitting to address a white man as "sir." Moreover while white people were lynched without torture and left to hang, the Negroes were tortured in advance, their bodies mutilated, and dragged through the streets. Dr. Harten very rightly said that along with an anti-lynching bill must go an intensive campaign of education that will awaken the American people to a higher knowledge of the oneness of humanity and a respect for the God-given rights of the humblest citizen, regardless of race.

• • •

Leadership Within.

DR. HARTEN has been all his life one of the most stalwart champions of Negro rights. He has fought long and hard for the passage of the anti-lynching bills, and on such occasions may be seen in the lobbies of Congress exerting his influence, which is far-reaching. He invites prominent legislators frequently to address his congregation, in order, as he says, that "the people can keep an eye on them." Because of his radicalism in religion I know that opinion is sharply divided about him in religious circles. But I am content to let the churchmen battle this out among themselves since most of what passes for religion is a mere churning of meaningless words and a handicap to both black and white. But I feel that any man, whether he be Baptist or Episcopalian; Democrat, Republican, or Communist; atheist or believer; preacher or politician, who fights our battles vigorously and whole-heartedly, deserves our high gratitude. Dr. Harten is in direct contact with some of the most influential men in the country and speaks to large white audiences, North and South, thus doing an immense amount of good in his own way. And it is important to remember in this respect that if ever the color question is solved it will be as the work not of any particular group, but of many different groups, using their own technique to reach peoples whom it is difficult to reach in any other way.

Dr. Harten, as I said, is a dynamic speaker, with a mighty power to move his audiences, and stir them to the heights of emotion. And as I listened to him last Sunday I pictured to myself what is going to happen when men with his gift begin to mix some working class doctrine with their religion. Then let the overlords look out. For I believe that the true leader of the American masses, white and black together, is going to be a Negro, since in addition to his emotional power it is the Negro alone who knows what real injustice is.

Lynchings-1934
Discussions.

Negro Press, Northern.

4594.

INDIFFERENT AMERICA.

Age

7-21-34

New York Age

Addressing a gathering of farmers at Waterloo, Iowa, General Hugh S. Johnson, National Recovery Administrator, made this astonishing statement:

"A few days ago in Germany events occurred which shocked the world. I don't know how they have affected you, but they have made me sick—not figuratively but physically and very actively sick. The idea that adult responsible men can be taken from their homes, stood up against a wall, backs to the rifles and shot to death is beyond expression. I have seen something of that sort in Mexico during the Villa ravages and among semi-civilized people or savages half drunk on sotol and marajuana, but that such a thing should happen in a country of some supposed culture passes comprehension."

The New York Age brands General Johnson's statement as astonishing beause here in the United States citizens are lynched and burned to death by the mob without one word of protest from Federal, State, municipal or county governments. Has the head of the NRA ever heard of deplorable and tragic instances of innocent women and children burned to a crisp by "100 per cent Americans," who poured oil on the helpless victims and acted like wild beasts?

Only a few days ago down in Louisiana a mob of 3,000, composed of supposedly civilized men and women, took a 26-year old Negro from an unguarded jail and lynched him because he was "charged with assaulting a white woman."

While the man, protesting his innocence, was tied to a tree, the District Attorney, F. W. Hawthorne by name, meekly told members of the mob that he sympathized with their attitude but was afraid they would get in trouble. Sheriff Carpenter and two assistants, although heavily armed watched the lynching bee without asserting authority; for their sentiments were exactly the same as the cowardly district attorney's

Congress had barely adjourned when the open season for lynching in the South was officially inaugurated. A Texas Negro was lynched for the "monstrous crime" of "associating with a white woman."

For once the Associated Press correspondent had the temerity to transmit other than the old, stereotyped lie that "Negro confessed to criminally attacking a white woman." Southern white men are not lynched for "associating with colored women." Circumstances alter cases.

General Johnson saw fit to bitterly deplore the recent official killings in Germany, but he has not uttered one word in public against the lynching of Andrew McCloud in the Public square of Bastrop, Louisiana, while the sheriff, district attorney and other law officers looked on. When he talks about things happening in Germany—in a country of some supposed culture passes comprehension—Nazi chiefs must think of the reign of mob law in the United States and burst out laughing.

Lynching and the miscarriage of justice have become of such a common occurrence in the United States that they occasion very little interest or resentment nowadays. When Mrs. Raymond P. Keesecker sought to bring up the subject and Scottsboro at the Presbyterian General Assembly in Cleveland, the Rev. Herman A. Klahr, acting pastor of the Old Stone Church, is reported to have petulantly remarked that he was sick and tired of it.

The church people of the country are now waging a vigorous campaign against unsavory talking pictures. But the killing of helpless and usually innocent men and women has failed to arouse the religious to a high pitch of indignation against an American disgrace which is holding up the country to the ridicule and scorn of the outside world and which puts the American people in an incongruous role when they assume the holier than thou attitude and seek to criticise others.

Due to the tactics of Southern members of Congress, it has been impossible to have passed a Federal anti-lynching bill. In the majority of Southern commonwealths where mob law thrives little is done to prevent ynching by State and county officials, whose conduct is similar to that of Hawthorne and Carpenter in Louisiana. The Constitution of he United States provides that a citizen is ntitled to the protection of the law.

The Negro has the same impulses as other people, although this is not considered a fact by many. Sooner or later he is going to make up his mind to protect his own life and property if constituted officers of the law, instead of performing what is their sworn duty, join in with the lawless element to kill and destroy.

It is not human nature to be persecuted, put to death and unjustly mistreated without resorting to self-protection. And you cannot continue to kick a dog around without expecting the docile canine to some day grow tired of brutal treatment, show his teeth, growl and bite.

One Lynched; 3 Threatened by Mobs in U.S.

Lynchers Rush from Church, Shoot Accused Victim to Death.

Afro American

DEPUTY CLAIMS HE BALKED COLORED MOB

9-1-34

Sheriff's Ruse Saves an Alleged Robber

Baltimore, Md.

BIRMINGHAM — In an outbreak of lawlessness and disorder, blood-seeking mobs lynched one person and threatened the life of three others within the space of two days, last week.

Twenty-five white men lynched a man thought to be George Taylor in the city suburbs, Saturday, after it was claimed that he had accosted three girls with a gun. Gracie Tabor, 23; Edith Tidwell, 24; and Lorene Tidwell, 19, the ofay girls, claimed they were on the way to church when Taylor stopped them.

The girls contended that two of them struggled with the man while a third ran to spread the alarm. Men poured out of the church meeting, cornered Taylor, and shot him. The lynching of Taylor was in sharp contrast to the protection given Harold Taylor, white, held in connection with the murder of Faye New, white co-ed of Howard College.

The white girl was taken for a ride and her throat was slashed. In one case, murder was committed. In the other, it was only charged that the man had accosted the girls.

Deputy Halts Hanging

In Jackson, Miss., deputy sheriffs report that colored neighbors attempted to lynch Willie Galon, Saturday, after he was accused of an attempted attack on a 60-year-old woman. Deputy Sheriff A. B. Derrick reported that he rescued Galon from the mob as preparations were being made to hang him to a tree.

Saved by Ruse

In Monroe, La., a sheriff's ruse saved Willie Peters, 27, from lynching by an irate mob of 300 white men and boys, Friday, after he was accused of slugging and robbing Harvey Lively, 52-year-old white salesman, of $46.

Peters was captured at Stuggart, Ark. When it was learned that he was being returned, the mob gathered to take him from the deputies, but they switched Peters to another car and fooled the mob.

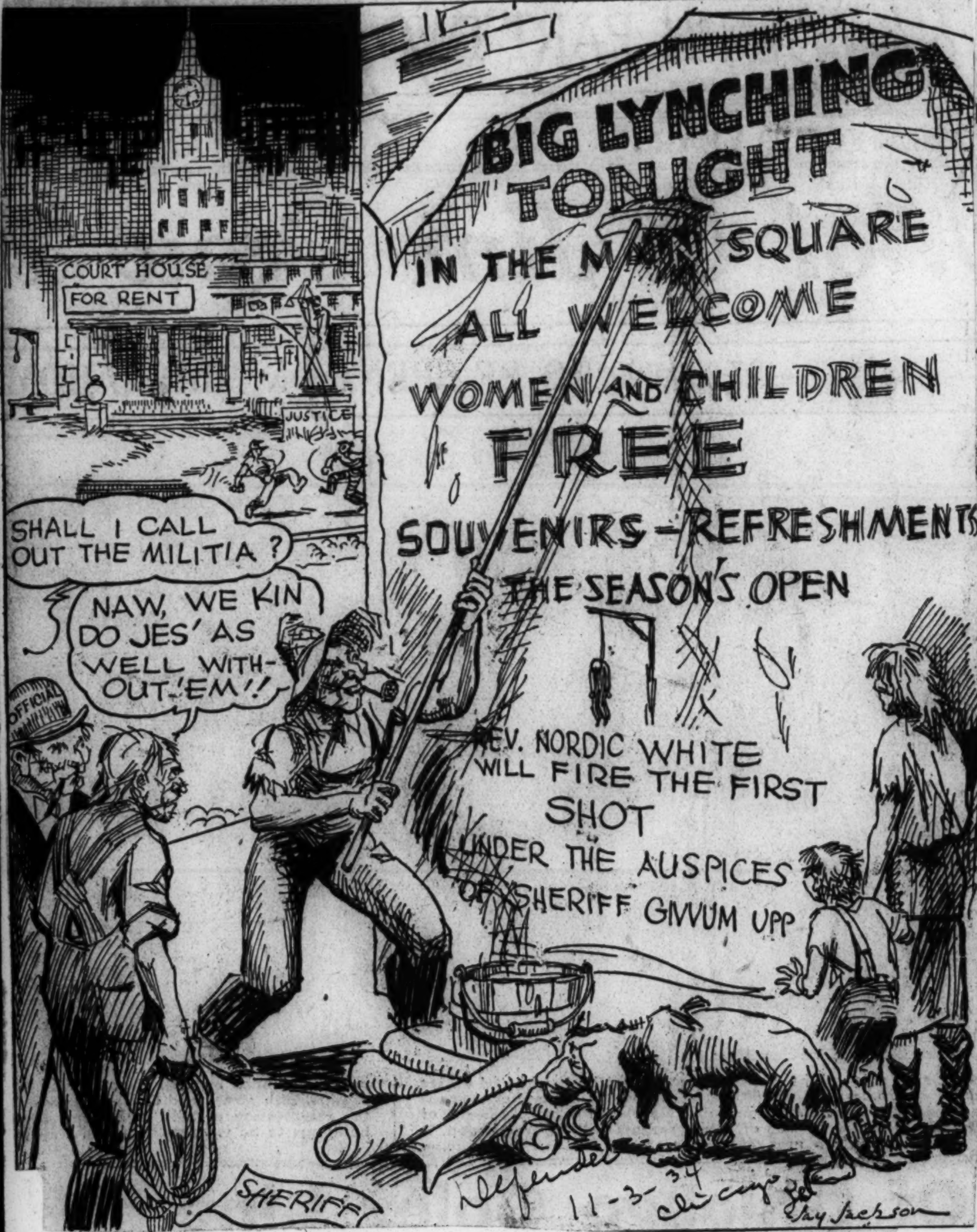
After Peters had been placed on the top floor of the jail in Monroe, the mob leaders openly made plans to storm the jail, but finally decided to give it up.

White Man Menaced

At Medino, Ohio, deputy sheriffs swung their clubs vigorously, last week, to fight off a mob threatening to lynch a white farmer who was running the price up at a foreclosure mortgage sale.

The crowd demanded that no more than eight cents be bid for any article. One farmer defied the order and bid one dollar. There were cries of "Lynch him," and the mob moved in. It was then that the officers rescued the bidder.

The Circus Is Coming!



Defender 11-3-34 Chicago Ill.

Lindbergh Law Covers Florida Lynching Case

Afro-American 11-3-34

Howard University Senior Law Class Files Brief with Roosevelt.

Baltimore, Md.

1934 AMENDMENT QUOTED IN FULL

Any Transporting Across State Lines Covered.

WASHINGTON—Calling attention to the fact that the 1934 amendment to the Lindberg kidnaping law makes that law applicable o tinterstate kidnaping for any purpose, the senior law class of Howard University last week urged Federal action in the Claude Neal lynching case, in telegrams to President Roosevelt and Attorney-General Cummings.

In their wire to the President, the law students declared that a recently published statement, which was credited to the Attorney General's office, stating that the Federal Government had no jurisdiction in the case, represented a repudiation of the amendment.

Office Requested Amendment

They called attention to the fact that the amendment was introduced in Congress at the request of the Attorney General, and urged the President to use the influence of his office to compel the Department of Justice to recognize and enforce the measure.

In their wire to Attorney-General Cummings, the students said they regarded the position taken by the Department of Justice as a "repudiation of its former position and a surrender of its trust to the entrenched forces of lawlessness and race hatred."

"We call upon you," the message continued, "for the same vigorous enforcement of the amended Lindbergh law in the Claude Neal kidnaping as your department showed in tracking down Hauptman, Bailey and the other criminals who kidnaped for ransom."

Amendment Quoted

The original provisions of the Lindbergh law, and the amendment quoted in the messages follow:

ORIGINAL LINDBERGH LAW, 1932

Be it enacted by the Senate and and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled that whoever shall knowingly transport or cause to be transported, or aid or abet in transporting, in interstate or foreign commerce, any person who shall have been unlawfully seized, confined, inveigled, decoyed, kidnaped, abducted, or carried away by any means whatsoever and held for ransom or reward shall, upon conviction, be punished by imprisonment in the penitentiary for such term of years as the court, in discretion, shall determine . . .

LINBERGH LAW, AS AMENDED BY 1737RD CONGRESS, 1934

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled, That the Act of June 22, 1932 (U.S.C., Ch. 271, title 18, sec. 408a), be, and the same is hereby, amended to read as follows:

"Whoever shall knowingly transport or cause to be transported, or aid or abet in transporting, in interstate or foreign commerce, any person who shall have been unlawfully seized, confined, inveigled, decoyed, kidnaped, abducted, or carried away by any means whatsoever and held for a ransom or reward or otherwise, except, in the case of a minor by or parent thereof, shall, upon conviction be punished (1) by death if the verdict of the jury shall so recommend, provided that the sentence of death shall not be imposed by the court if, prior to its imposition, the kidnaped person has been liberated unharmed, or (2) if the death penalty shall not apply nor be imposed the convicted person shall be punished by imprisonment in the penitentiary for such term of years as the court in its discretion shall determine . . .

Previous Declaration Cited

The N.A.A.C.P. has made public a letter received from Joseph B. Keenan, assistant attorney-general, on October 20, in which partial admission is made that the Federal government can act in lynch-kidnapings involving interstate transportation.

Mr. Keenan's letter made reference to the kidnaping and probable lynching of Curtis James, at Darien, Ga., on October 7, and implied that the Department of Justice could act if it were established that the victim was transported in interstate commerce.

Lynchings-1934
Discussions-

Negro Press, Northern.

4595

Lynch Mob Made Victim Eat His Own Organs

Afro-American
11-24-34

(Special to the AFRO)

NEW YORK.—The Middle Ages, known in history for barbaric tortures, were put in the shade by the lynch mob of Marianna, Fla., which cut off the genital organs of Claude Neal and forced him to eat them, the N.A.A.C.P. learned this week.

Baltimore, Md.

The mobsters tortured Neal for twelve hours before killing him wounding him in some two hundred places.

An eye-witness gave the N.A.A.C.P. investigator the following statement:

"Then they sliced his sides and stomach with knives and every now and then somebody would cut off a finger or toe. Red hot irons were used on the n——r to burn him from top to bottom.

"From time to time during the torture a rope would be tied around Neal's neck and he was pulled up over a limb and held there until he almost choked to death when he would be let down and the torture would begin all over again. After several hours of this torture they decided just to kill him.

Use Sharpened Knives

"Neal's body was tied to a rope on the rear of an automobile and dragged over the highway to the Cannidy home. Here a mob estimated to number somewhere between 3000 and 7000 from eleven southern states was excitedly waiting its arrival. When the car which was dragging Neal's body came in front of the Cannidy home, a man who was riding the rear bumper cut the rope.

Afro-American

"A woman came out of the Cannidy house and drove a butcher knife through his heart. Then the crowd came by and some kicked him and some drove their cars over him.

11-24-34

"Men, women and children were numbered in the vast throng that came to witness the lynching.

"It is reported from reliable sources that the little children, some of them mere tots, who lived in the Greenwood neighborhood, waited with sharpened sticks for the return of Neal's body and that when it rolled in the dust on the road these little children drove their weapons deep into the flesh of the dead man.

Baltimore, Md.

Fingers for Souvenirs

"The body which by this time was horribly mutilated was taken by the mob to Marianna, a distance of ten or eleven miles, where it was hung to a tree on the northeast corner of the courthouse square. Pictures were taken of the mutilated form and hundreds of photographs were sold for fifty cents each. Scores of citizens viewed the body as it hung in the square.

The body was perfectly nude until the early morning when someone had the decency to hang a burlap sack over the middle of the body. The body was cut down about eight-thirty Saturday morning.

Toes Exhibited

"Fingers and toes from Neal's body have been exhibited as souvenirs in Marianna where one man offered to divide the finger which he had with a friend as 'a special favor.' Another man has one of the fingers preserved in alcohol."

A photograph, much clearer than that reproduced in some newspapers right after the lynching shows the fingers missing from his hand and the gashes on his chest and in his sides where the skin had been split from his body, also the burns on nearly every square inch of his body.

PRESIDENT ROOSEVELT ON LYNCHING

Age
12-15-34
New York N.Y.

...."I ask you, therefore, to do all in your power to interpret the problem of crime to the people of this country. They must realize the many implications of that word 'crime.' It is not enough that they become interested in one phase only. At one moment popular resentment and anger may be roused by an outbreak of some particular form of crime such, for example, as widespread banditry; or at another moment, of appalling kidnappings; or at another of widespread drug peddling; or at another of horrifying lynching. Lynching, unfortunately, is no longer confined to one section of the country."

—Address Before Crime Conference, Dec. 10.

FEDERAL RESPONSIBILITY.

Age
12-15-34
New York N.Y.

Under the caption "America's Shame," the Philadelphia Record calls upon the Federal Government to act in the lynching of Claude Neal in Marianna, Fla. "There are grounds aplenty under the Fourteenth Amendment and under the Federal Anti-Kidnapping Law for Federal action," it asserts.

The Philadelphia Record charges that nothing in the annals of German, Italian and Balkan dictatorship is worse than the story revealed in the lynching, which has aroused the indignation of white Southern religious, women's and student groups. But to date their protests have been ignored.

Commenting further on one of the most glaring acts of savagery on record, the Philadelphia Record laments:

> A member of the lynching party told the story of the torture that preceded the hanging. The details are too horrible to bear repetition in a newspaper. Later, "little children, some of them mere tots, waited with sharpened sticks for the return of Neal's body and drove their weapons into the flesh of the dead man." Photographs were sold and fingers and toes cut off as souvenirs.

Many influential publications are asking the same question as the Philadelphia Record as to why the Department of Justice does not make a determined effort to arrest and punish those who took part in these fiendish, unbelievable acts of barbarism. Neal was kidnapped and taken from one State to another—from Alabama to Florida—in violation of the Lindbergh Act. He also was put to death without due process of law and denied equal protection of the law in violation of the Fourteenth Amendment. Are these Federal Acts to be flagrantly violated and given sanction by Uncle Sam? What valid excuse can Federal authorities give for failure to take cognizance of these gross, patent infractions of the law?

The bread and butter problem, ignorance and illiteracy are responsible for lynchings in the South, in the opinion of the Philadelphia Record. It is a sad commetary on Americanism if in this enlightened age ignorance and illiteracy are to dominate in any section of this country, which does not speak well for the educated white people. As for the economic situation, those in power face the alternative of giving the Negro an opportunity to earn an honest living, which makes for good citizenship, or denying him that right thereby forcing him to starve or steal.

But the transcending question in the lynching of Claude Neal is not one of economics, but of law. What are the Federal authorities going to do about the kidnapping of Neal, who, in violation of the Lindbergh Act, was taken from one State to another and mobbed?

GOV. SHOLTZ GETS MARIANNA LYNCH HORROR REPORT

Pgh. Courier
12-28-34
[illegible]

New York, Dec. [illegible]—Governor David Sholtz has acknowledged receipt of a copy of the investigation of the recent lynching of Claude Neal at Marianna, Florida, made by the N.A.A.C.P. and writes that it has been "transmitted to the [illegible] Attorney, Honorable John H. Carter, Jr., Marianna, Fla., for his information and guidance."

TO PROTEST LYNCHING.

Amsterdam News
12-29-34
New York N.Y.

Scores of New Yorkers prominent in the civic, religious and professional worlds have sponsored the giant mass meeting against lynching and for the passage of a federal anti-lynching law, to be held on the afternoon of [illegible] the Broadway Tabernacle here.

SHELBYVILLE, TENNESSEE

[illegible]

After recording nothing but successes for the lynchers, the time has come when the mobbists have been administered a taste their own medicine — death by violence. — We refer to the affair at Shelbyville, Tennessee.

The American is opposed to the snuffing out of one human's life by another, but there are times when no' way' is open. The mob forms with but one thought, to kill. Crazed and driven to savage insanity by this thought, nothing will deter them except hot lead and cold steel.

Two prospective lynchers were killed outright by national guardsmen in the little Tennessee town. Seven others were wounded seriuosly with probability that two of these would die, according to dispatches reaching us at this writing. Obviously both sides, white men all, meant business.

If nothing else, the armed resistance of the determined militiamen and the latitude of Gov. Hill McAlister should convince Negrophobists in that state that mob vengeance will not be easily tolerated. It is probable that others will think twice before they attempt in the

some luckless Aframerican.

The action taken officially in Tennessee is in direct contrast to that recently in Florida where a Negro was kidnaped from Alabama ,brought back home,and invitations sent out for a lynching to take place at a certain hour that night. Florida's highest executive refused to make one move against the mobbing. It is obvious that such an attitude tends to encourage this sort of crime inasmuch as the lynchers see they are free to kill as they wish without legal retribution. The Tennessee action points the other way.

Th most ironical part of the entire Shelbyville riot is in the fact that the Negro sought by the mob would probably have recieved a sentence of death in the electric chair had the trial been permitted to continue. But because of their own impatience, the prisoner's death had merely been put off until further in the future while some of those most anxious to see him die are themselves enroute to the graveyard

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6

J. A. ROGERS

International Correspondent

[illegible] 12-29-34 [illegible]

CAN LYNCHING BE STOPPED?

Esop tells the following fable: A lark who built her nest in a cornfield became nervous as the harvest approached, and laid strict charge on her young ones to report to her all human conversation that took place in her absence. Soon after the young ones related in alarm that they overheard the master of the field ordering his neighbors to cut the corn. "There's no danger, my children," reassured the mother. The following day the little larks again reported that they had heard the master asking his friends to cut his corn, and that they had promised faithfully to do so, therefore, the lark family had better move at once.

"Still there's nothing to worry about," laughed the mother. And she was right. A week passed and nothing happened. Then the young larks reported that the master had returned and that they had heard him say that he was coming the next day to cut the corn himself. "Then, children, we must go now. As for the neighbors and friends, I feared them not. But the master will come; it's his own business."

Similarly, lynching will be stopped only when the people who are being lynched consider it their business to take steps to end it.

And it can be stopped. Up to now the fight against it has been left to a handful of devoted white friends and a very small percentage of high-spirited Negroes. Yet considerable progress has been made. Lynching is so monstrous, it is such a reversion to anarchy and barbarism, such a negation of every principle of justice and orderly government; such an overturning of all decency, that I am firmly convinced that if but only five percent of us were to band ourselves against it, we would be able to arouse a majority of the white people of this nation, for the latter are not so much our enemies as they are indifferent. Which is understandable. If the people who are being lynched are so complacent about it, why shouldn't others be?

One year of intensive united fight against lynching would end it. And 1935 is a good year to start. Fortunately we have an organization already formed —the NAACP. Fully 90 per cent of the progress made against lynching has been the work of the NAACP. Lynchings numerous as they are now, are almost rare occurrences compared with what they were when this organization started. And let the NAACP lay off for about six months and lynching and general injustices against the Negro would take a great spurt. Race hate has been cultivated so long in America that now it grows naturally. This is what the indifferent amongst us seem to forget. Stop the fight against this poisonous weed for however short a time and it gains enormous strength against the good grain. And by the indifferent is meant many of our ministers, lodge, social, political and other leaders, who are much more interested in strutting their petty egos, than in giving service to the people from whom they got their support. And those who waste money on social fripperies forget that but for certain self-sacrificing ones in the past and now they wouldn't have that money and even the right to spend it.

Many stayed out of the NAACP once because they regarded it as a sort of Brahminic, silk-gloved, closed corporation. This charge can no longer be maintained. The present secretary and assistant secretary, Walter White and Roy Wilkins, are not only thorough democrats, but they have risked their lives repeatedly for the cause. When credit for the suppression of lynching is awarded Mr. White's name will probably head the list.

Napoleon said that money is the sinews of war. It is that also of the fight against lynchings. To show that the above is not more talk on my part I sent in my dollar the moment I had finished writing this. And when I give $1 it is equivalent to some I know giving $200

Lynchings-1934
6
Discussions.

Negro Press, Northern.
6

4596

PARADOX IN TENNESSEE

Recorder 12-29-34 Indianapolis, Ind.

The action accredited to Governor McAllister, of Tennessee, in preventing at the point of bayonets the lynching of a member of our group, was as noble as [illegible] especially inspiring.

It should go down in history as one of the most courageous steps ever taken in the path of right and justice.

The civilized world should rejoice over the fact that the South is at last awakening to its responsibilities as a component part of the United States of America.

This newspaper is not in a position to say whether or not the Tennessee citizen is innocent or guilty of the crime charged against him.

That, of course, remains for what should be an impartial jury to determine.

We do know, however, that the Tennssee executive's performance is an excellent example of what other Southern officials could, and should do, to stamp out the lynching evil in that section of the country.

Too often have the lives of our group been sacrificed upon the altar of baseless prejudce in the southland with nothing at all being said or done about this naked system of injustice by better thinking people of the country.

The time has come for a right about face on the part of leading citizens of that section of the nation on the long deferred question of fair play in the courts for colored Americans.

And it is to be hoped that the recent Tennessee paradox will make for the beginning of improved judicial and sociological conditions for our people throughout this country.

The narrow prejudice as manifested by certain elements of citizens against our people is entirely uncalled for.

What ignorant conceited man needs woefully in this troubled little world of ours, is a fuller measure of Christ-like spirit of tolerance and goodwill toward his fellow creatures.

Human progress is impossible without it, and the sooner we realize this the better it will be for our boasted civilization.

N.A.A.C.P. COMMENDS GOVERNOR OF TENNESSEE FOR USING TROOPS

Charge of Venue Urged for Trial of Harris

Chicago 12-29-34 [illegible]

NEW YORK, Dec. 21—Governor Hill McAlister of Tennessee was commended by the N. A. A. C. P. today for the prevention by state troops of the lynching of E. K. Harris at Shelbyville yesterday. A change of venue was also suggested for the future trial of Harris to insure fair trial on the charge of criminal assault.

The Telegram, signed by Walter White, the association's secretary read in part:

"May I on behalf of the N. A. A. C. P. express our commendation of the determined opposition by state troops yesterday to the mob which sought to lynch E. K. Harris at Shelbyville. The wanton destruction of property in the drunken attack of the lynchers stresses again how essential Federal legislation against lynching is to supplement state authority and public opinion.

"We respectfully urge that chnage of venue be secured for future trial of Harris and that every precaution be taken not only to prevent lynching but to insure impartial trial."

CHEEK LYNCHING SEEN BEHIND TROOP ACTION

Pressure of Outraged Groups in Nashville Caused Gov. McAlister to Aid Harris

Amsterdam News 12-29-34

NASHVILLE, Dec. 26 (ANP).—The action which resulted last Wednesday in the shooting to death of three would-be lynchers at Shelbyville and the wounding of a score of others had its beginning shortly after the day nearly two years ago, when Cardie Cheek, 17-year-old boy, was snatched near the campus of Fisk University, carried into Maury County and lynched.

No punishment was ever meted out to the lynchers of Cordie Cheek, although it was rather well established who the lynchers were.

Liberal [illegible] sentiment in Nashville and Davidson county, ever since that tragedy, have insisted that something be done about it. Local white citizens have subscribed their own funds and demanded a special prosecutor to clear up that case. But nothing was ever done about it.

Nevertheless, the crusade against lynching and officials who condone the crime has borne fruit. The leaders of this southern white group have been thoroughly outspoken.

Only last February a group of whites from Nashville paid their own fare to washington in order to testify before a Senate sub-committee in favor of the passage of the Costigan-Wagner anti-lynching bill. In that group were Howard Kester, representing the Fellowship of Reconciliation; the Rev. John Knox, chaplain of Fisk University, and Mrs. F. B. Dressler, president of the Young Women's Christian Association in this city.

This constant drive carried on by these whites, most of them representing educational and social institutions within this city and state, and co-operating with other interracial groups, finally had its effect Wednesday when Gov. McAlister ordered national guardsmen to protect the court at Shelbyville in the trial of E. K. Harris, charged with an attack on a 14-year-old white girl.

It is recognized that the 100 national guardemen sent to Shelbyville would not have turned their guns and bayonets on their racial brothers in behalf of a black man if they had not been given direct and explicit orders from the governor on down.

CURRENT OPINION

BASIC INVOLVEMENTS

(Greensboro Observer, Greensboro, N. C.)

12-29-34

The fatal clash between Tennessee national guardsmen and a charging mob at Shelbyville, leaving a casualty list of [illegible] more and the smouldering ruins of what had a short time before been the Bedford county courthouse, is lamentable, extermely lamentable, but on the basis of reports was inevitable unless the soldiers had yielded the guardianship with which they were intrusted to mobbery.

It is in the dispatches that every effort was made to win the advancing mobsters by reason. A national guard officer attempted to address them before the fatal charge. The soldiery, pressed at close quarters, used tear gas and bayonets and then retreated to the interior of the courthouse where the Negro whom they were charged with protecting had been on trial. When the mob charged this structure, using pistols, clubs and firebrands, if press reports are to be relied upon, and apparently more bent upon assualting the troops than getting their prisoner, who had already been spirited away, there was nothing left for the guardsmen to do but to defend themselves and the building which they occupied.

Even then, more than self-defense was involved; a courthouse has a certain symbolism. Called out in the first instance to protect a Negro prisoner, charged with assault, the presence of troops was intended for infinitely more. They represented law and orderly processes. What, in the final analysis, is more worth fighting for than preservation of those forces which stand for the right of trial by jury, for maintenance of the fundamental tenet that a defendant, who may be any of us tomorrow, is innocent until proved otherwise, that no man is to be judged, much less condemned to death, until he has his day in court? If the troops had promptly withdrawn, where would that principle and the forces which maintain it have been? Incidentally, the needlessness of lynching, if punishment is its major motive, is ever borne in if a defendant, particularly a Negro is guilty of the offense which genarally precipitates lynchings, who is there in the south to say that he stands a chance of escaping the maximum penalty under the law?

Rather the burning of the Shelbyville courthouse, after both the suspect and the troops, had departed, emphasizes the wantonness upon which mobs thrive.

William Pickens, Well Known Writer Offers A Defense of the South

12-29-34

To the Editor:

Governor Hill McAlister and his militia in Tennessee were not defending an accused Negro when shots were fired into a savage, drunken mob at Shelbyville: the were defending the State of Tennessee, the rights and security of all its citizens, and the very existence of order and law among men. And their defiance of the mob was at this time a very necessary Defense of the South. The courage and consistency of law in Tennessee are a striking contrast to the utter failure of all law in Florida in the last days of October. The Governor of Tennessee has so far prevented his state from adding another to the long list of lynchings that have disgraced us in the year of 1934.

The enemies of the Governor and especially all would-be lynchers will try to pretend that white men were shot in defense of a Negro. That is narrow and false: that Negro was only a symbol; the real action was between law and brute forces, between order and chaos. An accused Negro was being made the excuse for over-throwing law by a savage mob filled with whisky. There could be no motive to make sure that the Negro did not escape punishment; there was no chance for the Negro to escape his rewards; he was in a white court, with a white judge and jury, charged with an offense against white people. In such a situation, it would seem that outsiders should be concerned to see that he got a fair trial instead of feeling it necessary to try to make sure that he would be punished.

But the point we wish to make here, is that the action of the Governor and his militia in resisting the mob had no relation to a Negro or to Negroes, except incidentally.

They were defending themselves, their offices, their state, their society, their honor, and even the best interests of the members of the mob itself.

WILLIAM PICKENS.

Fisk Pastor is "Ashamed of Florida" Because of Its Recent Lynching

12-29-34

To the Editor:

I am ashamed of my country, and I am ashamed of myself for not doing something for the poor boy who was lynched in Florida recently. I feel that my calling is challenged, and that I at some time shirked my duty by not reaching that poor soul; but I feel more ashamed of the fact that 3,000 citizens took that poor helpless boy and tore his body to pieces, made him eat his flesh, and murdered him.

Those people must have night-mares; those children must cry out in their sleep. The fowls of the air must marvel at the atrociousness of such a crime and ask the question while perched loftily on the swinging arms of Mother Nature 'Is man higher than we?' Pray for that town; some one must repent and begin again to build an empire that those people have torn down in one day which took decades to build.

Nashville, Tenn.

(REV.) I. W. FAULKNER.

J. A. ROGERS

International Correspondent

WHY LYNCHING?

[illegible]

The history of the presidential denunciations of lynching is illuminating. Theodore Roosevelt exploded with all his wrath against it, and nearly pushed in the collar-bone of Sam Gompers, labor leader, over it. William H. Taft, his successor; Woodrow Wilson, Harding, Coolidge and Hoover, all duly scolded it. But nothing ever happened. Like a spoiled child the lynchers merely looked up a moment, and then returned to their brutal play. Since Theodore Roosevelt thundered, hundreds have been lynched, and a lynching may occur at any moment.

Why has nothing come out of these presidential "attacks" on lynchings? The answer is as clear as daylight for all but fools. The exploitation and robbery of Negroes is a part of the economy of this nation. People pay income tax to nation, state and city from the money derived from this exploitation. Voters in the South go to the polls with the understanding that their congressmen, senators, judges, aldermen, and others will maintain it. Should these legislators cross the will of the people, their job, as in the case of Judge Horton's, goes to another.

Moreover these congressmen, senators, judges and others are so many blocks in the pyramid at the top of which sits the president. Should they move the presidential seat is disturbed. It so happens that this is especially true of this administration. Therefore, when the President speaks, as he has just done, they listen sarcastically knowing what would happen, which is simply this. At the next election the voters cast their ballots for the candidates who advocated the keeping down of Negroes. It cannot be denied that a majority in the South are for the suppression and exploitation of the Negro, out of which grows lynching as the poisonous toadstool out of dung. Therefore, Franklin D. Roosevelt, like his predecessors may be expected to do nothing about it. President Roosevelt, though, perhaps the most amiable, charming and captivating figure who has ever occupied the White House, is certainly not made of martyr stuff. Like Lincoln, he is a politician first, and a humanitarian next. Lincoln declared that he was willing to save slavery if in so doing he could save the Union, and Franklin D. Roosevelt may be counted on to save lynching if it will maintain the supremacy of the Democratic party.

Recently when the lynchers kidnapped Claude Neal across the state line the Roosevelt administration pretended to see nothing. But, however, if some amorous couple had crossed a state line Atty. Gen. Cummings would have been hot on their trail with his Mann Act. Further, lynching is murder. The Constitution of the United States provides expressly that no one shall be killed without a fair trial. It further prohibits all cruel and unusual punishment. Was the murder of Claude Neal cruel and unusual punishment —this cutting off of his genitals and forcing him to eat them? And we in America have the nerve to denounce the brutality of the Nazis of Germany and the Communists of Russia! This sort of thing happens in no other part of the world. To find a parallel one must go back, at least four centuries. Yet Congress and the judiciary do nothing about lynching and the local courts declare that they do not know the lynchers even when the latter boast of their dead and pose for their pictures in the newspapers. Hitler, at least, ruthlessly suppresses the would-be lynchers in his gang. Our dictator utters a feeble blast against mob-murder, and lo! it is first page news. Our Negro leaders—good, dear, kind, unsophisticated souls—"throw up their sweated night caps" in joy, with the fond, never-deluded hope that something is going to be done at last, therefore they will be free to pursue their inanities and thunder forth their trivialities.

Politics, being what it is, Roosevelt or any other president, is almost powerless against lynching. If it can be stopped, it will be in only one way, and of this I will speak in my next.

THE MOB GETS ITS ANSWER

When Tennessee's national guard fired on the Shelbyville mob which tried to lynch a Negro accused of rape, that state made history. The guard has been assembled at times in various states to frighten away would-be lynchers. But it is history-making for it to shoot. Tennessee has said in the one way to be understood that it will have no slaughter by slavering butchers.

Call

A state's national guard being itself a cross section of the people and the agent of a governor elected by the people would not shoot to kill if dominant public opinion were not now aganst lynching. What a change from the days when it was the work of the "best citizens" and the one way deemed adequate to punish Negroes for certain crimes!

12-28-34

Had the lynchers not made such a show of holy horror at crimes charged to Negroes—the same crimes by whites went unnoticed—public opinion never would have thought them immaculately pure knights laboring to save civilization. Gradually the glitter has peeled off and the grisly cruelty of their real nature stands revealed. Few states have lynchings any more, and as in the case of Marianna, Florida, those which do try to shift the blame. Between resolute steps by the law to establish its supreme authority, and horror by the public at the monstrous thing it has nurtured, lynching is about to be driven out of American life.

Kansas City

There has never been any likelihood that any Negro guilty of crime will escape punishment. Being of a despised minority, he has had no chance to take advantage of the law. It is quite the other way around. The Negro defendant not only suffers the limitations which are common to all the poor when they appear in court, but because American custom limits friendly contacts between the races, it is probable that all his witnesses will be of his own people. All their testimony to prove either his previous good character or an alibi, is as nothing against even a single white person's rebuttal in the average court.

Lynchers expect Negroes to be convicted. They conclude that since the accused will be convicted, the mob is as good as the jury, with the difference that if the mob convicts it can have the fun of inflicting the penalty. They do not see that playing the hangman puts a cankering sore in the brain, with dire future consequences.

Tennessee will regret the deaths which law enforcement has caused, but it will be saved from the thrill killers and criminal insane tomorrow. Furthermore it has this consolation—the next mob will think twice before it charges in to take a prisoner from the law. The law is both theoretically right and soundly practical in making the rifle the answer to the mob.

Lynchings-1934
Discussion.

Negro Press, Southern.

4584

Responsibility For Lynching

Baltimore Afro-American 12-15-34

Whenever a lynching occurs over the nation, most Negroes, and those members of the other race who seek to analyse and study strained relationships between the two races, attempt to place the blame for this character of unreasoned violence upon the untutored, uninformed poor whites in the affected area. We have always doubted the accuracy of vision among those who adopt this viewpoint. We have always felt that race prejudice was an unnatural condition of mind resulting from vicious propaganda eminating from economic sources.

The world has always had its race problem. It has only been within the last few centuries there has developed a "color" problem. All will agree that when whites enslaved whites there was nothing involved but economics. Following slavery in this country it was necessary to develop a type of propaganda having for its purpose the separation of the poor whites and the blacks. A union between the ex-slaves and the illiterate Nordics would not have fit properly into the economic picture of reconstruction. There was too much chance for the ruling class to lose control.

The average white man today does not know that during ante-bellum days poor white people were completely outside the economic circle. The skilled artisan was a black man. It was not a mere accident that poor whites always lived in the hill country and the mountains. It was the ruling class and the black man who lived in the fertile valleys of America prior to Lincoln's freedom. The truth is, Abraham Lincoln did far more towards emancipating poor white people in this country than he did for the sons of Ham.

With the elimination of free labor, the poor white came immediately in competition with the black. Exploitation of both classes could be better perpetuated if the two groups were kept separated. It was at this point in America that the poor whites were taught they were better than Negroes.

Strange as it may seem, the proud Caucasian, since his arrival in this nation, has not always been so particular regarding race purity, as he is today. When the economy of the time demanded, white plantation owners in colonial days bred strong, healthy Negro males to white females of the indentured class. The story of "Irish Nell," whose case came up before Lord Baltimore during the colonial period is a fine illustration of the contrast between white thought, life, then and now. Most whites and black of the the present period assume that mulatto Negroes arrived in this country through the relationship of white men with Negro women. The reverse is the fact. Both by compulsion and volition, white women bare the first mulatto children into the American world.

Such evidence ought to substantiate our notion that the ruling class whites separate the two races for economic reasons and for nothing more. Instead of exhibiting strains of inferiority, Negroes have shown wonderful capacity for assimilation and absorption of any atmosphere into which they are thrown. The Negro has very definite and obvious power of retention. Where the Indian failed the black man has capacity.

It is in the courts and with demoting citizenship statutes that the ruling class subtly dessiminates its vicious program of hate. The mob spirit begins there. Jim Crow laws, disfranchisement and segregation lynch Negroes of their constitutional rights, and it is an easy step from this viewpoint for poor whites to develop the vicious attitude which menaces our physical person.

Once in a while, however, the ruling class must come out into the open and give expression to their objectivity and purpose. Take, for instance, the case of Bernard Ades, white attorney, who in the state of Maryland has been battling for the past three years to prosecute white Eastern Shore lynchers. Disbarment proceeding has been attempted for the past two years against Ades, not by the poor whites of Maryland, but by the white bar association of Maryland. Ades has kept up an unrelenting fight against Negro jury exclusion in the cases of Euel Lee, Page Jupiter and George Davis. Unable to muzzle a courageous white man who believes in justice and fair play, the Federal district court of Maryland disbarred Ades for five months. Proceedings to disbar Ades from Maryland state courts are now in progress.

Here is a white man who lives in a social realm where the poor whites cannot reach him, but who because he has fought unrelentingly for social justice for Negroes, has not only been unmercifully beaten and almost lynched by the upper class, but is charged with attempting to incite race prejudice when he criticizes the inaction of the courts which by their official conduct condone and sanction lynching.

Within the structure of the law poor whites are fed up on the doctrine that any white man is better than a black. In the home, the school room and the church this gospel is preached. We don't worry much about shooting wild game, or even shooting a domestic animal if it becomes necessary. Many white people live and die fed up on propaganda which lifts the Negro but slightly above domestic brutes.

However just his cause, nine out of every ten Negroes know that they are going to be lynched of their rights if they go into the courts against a white man. While we have been writing this article we stopped long enough to pay a fire insurance premium to a white man. We have known this man for perhaps fifteen years and often have very confidential chats with him. We told him the subject we were discussing this week, which caused him to make some observations.

"I have sat on three juries where the black man was pitted against a white man," declared this white man. In two of these instances the majority of the whites composing same said, when we went into the jury room, "Let's convict him; he's nothing but a nigger."

This complex and vicious attitude of many white men regarding Negroes' rights, is accumulated in the home, the school and the church. The poor white does not dominate and control the church, and yet the white church has practiced Jim Crowism since slave insurrections, when slave holders considered it of economic importance to know what the Negro was doing and saying, even when praying. In the very school text which white and black youth alike must study, the Negro is characterized as inferior human being.

The time has come in this nation when all white people must assume responsibility for lynching. If President Roosevelt and the national government want to remould the moral fiber of the nation, there must be an attempt to start people thinking right. The truth is, poor white people could rid themselves of prejudice and racial hate within a generation were the ruling class to step from behind the screen of hypocrisy and wipe from the statute books all laws which demote the citizenship of black folk.

SHELBYVILLE IS QUIET FOLLOWING MOB'S ONSLAUGHT

Sheriff T. E. Gant, Son And Governor Praised For Skill in Handling Acute Situation

Globe and Independent
12-28-34
Nashville Tenn

All is quiet in this little town of 5,000 population, which last week withstood the most vicious onslaught against law and order in the history of the state, when a mob of several thousand, bent upon lynching a Negro accused of an attack on a white girl was repulsed by the state militia, with the loss of life of four of the mob members and the wounding of several others. The accused man, E. K. Harris, 22, was spirited back to Nashville, and on the same night the enraged members of the mob, as a reprisal burnt down the county court house, entailing a loss to the taxpayers of at least $150,000, the cost of rebuilding the courthouse, and the utter loss of valuable court records.

The mob's demonstration was staged Wednesday of last week when Harris was brought here from ashville, where he had been in ail for safekeeping. It was while he trial of Harris was in progress hat the mob made a rush on the ourthouse, evidently believing that he hundred or more militiamen ould refuse to stand their ground nd protect Harris. With every lesire to avoid killing any of the embers of the mob the guardsmen first used tear gas in an attempt o disperse the mob. This failed o quell the mob. The guardsmen hen retired to within the courthouse, where they were followed by he mob, members of which broke pen a courthouse door, and one an entered shooting an automatic pistol. The guardsmen then, in an ct of self-protection began firing nd also engaging in a hand to and combat with the mobsters. fter members of the mob fell mortally wounded, the others sullenly eft the courthouse yard. Following this Judge T. L. Coleman declared a mistrial.

Globe Independent
12-28-34
Nashville Tenn

TO THE CREDIT OF INTER-RACIAL COMMISSION

[illegible]
12-27-34
Nashville Tenn

The horrible rioting and subsequent slayings of several mob members at Shelbyville, Tenn., right at the beginning of the Yuletide, proved one of the most unfortunate occurrences that Tennesseans have encountered in many years.

The prompt and determined manner employed by Governor Hill McAllister in responding to the appeal of the upstanding Bedford County citizenship to dispatch members of the National Guard to the scene of the rioting and rowdyism, is certainly worthy of the highest praise and has come in for a major share of commendation from pulpit and press in all sections of our nation.

The situation plainly indicates the trend of sentiment of leading men and women of our land as concerns the hoodlum and criminal element. A careful study of the psychology of the mob spirit that sought to gain control of affairs in Bedford county has brought forth the expressed opinion in many quarters that the accused young Negro charged with an attack on a white girl, was not the sole object of the wrath of the irresponsible, drunken mob members. It is said to have been plain to many of the leading white citizens of Shelbyville, early on the day the rioting began, that the hoodlum element was merely exhibiting a desire to get hold of the accused Negro in order to create sufficient furore that would enable them to ply their other criminal designs. It was readily seen that the situation, early after its beginning, resolved itself into one of "self preservation" for the leading white people and their properties, at Shelbyville, and notwithstanding the early arrival of the militia, the magnificent and costly courthouse was reduced to a heap of ashes at the hands of a group of irresponsible vandals and hoodlums.

The state of affairs as obtained at Shelbyville was similar to that at Knoxville during the Maurice Mays riot, with the exception that the mob members got in more of their criminal work such as breaking into Gay Street stores and stealing everything they could get their hands on before the militiamen got control of affairs. Such was averted at Shelbyville because of the timely arrival of the guards.

An amusing phase of the words of praise that has been directed Governor McAlister and other persons who acted in putting an end to mob rule, was the comment from the New York National Association for the Advancement of Colored People. It is very likely that this trouble-making organization will list this as one of the attitudes of a Southern governor for which they are responsibles, in their 1934 report of their accomplishments.

The fact about the matter is, the sentiment favoring justice for all mankind and respect for law and order in Tennessee can be traced almost directly to the fine influence of the leaders of Tennessee's Inter-Racial Commission in our state. For years, President W. J. Hale, of State College, chairman of the State Inter-Racial League; Secretaries J. D. Burton, of the white commission, and R. E. Clay, of the Negro department, together with the support of Drs. L. G. Patterson, of Memphis, R. T. Burt, of Clarksville; Editor George Milton, of the Chattanooga News; Hon. J. C. Napier, of Nashville, and scores of other outstanding leaders, have worked tirelessly, as they advocated the cause of right and justice and respect for law and order inTennessee. Governor McAlister of the State Lnter-Racial League; Secretaries J. D. Burton, of while possessing a natural inclination favoring demand for respect toward our courts, will very likely admit the widespread sentiment against mob rule in our state has been created over the years through efforts of the Inter-Racial Commission, of which he is a member.

Anyway, mobocracy has been given fair warning that disregard for constituted authority is not to be tolerated and regardless as to how unfortunate the Shelbyville debacle was, the good that such an "ill wind" blows will, without a doubt serve to curb lynching and like evils in our state.

Lynchings-1934
6
Discussions.

Negro Press, Southern.
6

4585

4585

Penitential Prayer For Sins of Lynching

Journal and Guide

By REV. JAMES MYERS

5-5-34

Norfolk, Va.

O God, how dare we lift our eyes to Thee, for we are guilty as a nation of tolerating the practice of vile mob murder of men.

If our prayers go unanswered before Thy throne, call to our remembrance Thine ancient rebuke to Thy people, that Thou wouldst not hear their prayers while their hands were filled with blood.

Cleanse our hearts, we beseech Thee, of the dark sin of race prejudice; forgive us for our unbelief in the sacredness of human personality which Thou hast made in Thine own image; take away from us the uncontrolled passion of our hearts, and that violence of spirit which would make beasts of us all.

Make us to know the awful wrath of God which rests upon those having any personal part in lynching, and upon every community and state, and upon our people as a whole, until we shall repent and turn away from this taking of human life. For against Thee and Thee only have we sinned and done this evil in Thy sight. O God, forgive us!

Help us now to bring forth fruits worthy of repentance that we may be redeemed from the foul clutches of this national evil, and may order all our ways in the fear and love of God. Amen.

“The Why Of Lynching”

Journal and Guide

5-26-34

Norfolk Va.

THOSE who know and read the scholarly and legally trained and experienced editor of the *Norfolk Ledger-Dispatch*, will agree with us when we say that he holds no brief for lynchers, nor would he defend or excuse lynching under any circumstances. His readers, or many of them, will not be so sure, however, that he is not following too closely certain popular conceptions in ascribing and setting forth the reasons for the prevalence of lynching.

There are two causes frequently set forth. One is so stated, usually, that the public, not so familiar with current literature covering exhaustive studies of the subject, get the idea that all lynchings are due to attacks upon women. The other is that the courts are dilatory in dealing with offenders.

The *Ledger-Dispatch*, in an editorial captioned, “The Why of Lynching,” disposing first of the now suspended practice of lynching of horse thieves in the far-flung, undeveloped West in the formative stages of the development of that section, proceeds further to explain the causes of lynching as follows:

“In following years, and in certain areas, because men were unwilling that horribly mistreated women should have to go on the witness stand and testify to revolting details. But the law runs everywhere in this country now, and in nearly every state, if not every state, such details of offenses against women need not be related in open court as the law formerly required. Attempts are punishable just as commissions are, for one thing, and court rooms are very largely cleared, for another.”

The *Ledger-Dispatch* devotes the rest of its discussion of the causes of lynching to what it terms “the intolerable delays that mar the administration of justice,” especially in the matter of kidnaping. The delays are indeed oftimes intolerable and sometimes do mar the administration of justice, but a careful study of a report made by the Southern Commission on the Study of Lynching, of which the conservative GEORGE FORT MILTON, of Tennessee, is chairman, and recorded in the volume “The Tragedy of Lynching,” by Dr. ARTHUR RAPER, shows that in the great majority of cases undue haste in the administration of “justice” has sent any number of innocent men to the gallows or electric chair. Legal lynching is just as bad as permitting a lawless crowd to put an innocent person to death.

In “Lynching and The Law,” a volume published in 1933 by JAMES HARMON CHADBOURN, assistant professor of law at the University of North Carolina, it is shown that 3,714 persons were lynched from 1889 to 1930, inclusive. Of that number 1,399 were charged with homicide, 267 with robbery and theft, 214 with fighting or felonious assault, 66 with “insulting” white people, and miscellaneous charges lodged against 897. A Negro was lynched last year for instituting a civil suit against a white man.

Of 3,174 persons lynched in the United States in 59 years less than 25 per cent were accused of rape and attempted rape. Just how many of those lynched for the “usual crime” were innocent, it is hard to say, but an intelligent study of cases compiled by the Southern Commission for the Study of Lynching since 1930 would convince most any person not unduly emotional on the subject that a majority of the rape charges have no foundation in fact.

There is only one substantial “why” of lynching. That is grounded in economic competition, racial intolerance, and connivance of peace officers with mobs. It is significant that Southern white women have sensed this truth, and that they have formed an organization for the prevention of lynching, 19,000 having already signed their names as members. At Lake Charles, La., a few days ago, a convention of 109 peace officers from all parts of the state heartily endorsed the women's movement. That is the best way to cure the lynching evil.

Social Amenities In Texas and Tennessee

Journal and Guide

6-30-34

Norfolk, Va.

THERE is neither reason behind nor justification for either of the last two lynchings, both of which were foul in the extreme. In Texas there was a particularly atrocious mobbing because a colored man had been associating with a white woman. In Tennessee an even more horrible lynching followed the intrusion of a band of white men upon the privacy of a Negro church festival, at which they were “insulted” and one was struck.

Here are two interesting studies in the pathology of lynching. There has been no intimation in dispatches from Texas that the Negro's association with the white woman was repugnant to her. With the Negro's obvious knowledge of the risk he was running, it is logical to assume that the association was encouraged. His crime then was that of sharing companionship with another human being.

We should like to know if there is a law in Texas against association between parties of different races. SON GRIGGS was charged “with associating with a white woman.” So terrible was his crime that the sheriff got wind of the formation of a mob and sent him to another town in custody of two deputies for safe keeping. As if by prearrangement or through inside knowledge of the hour of leaving and the route to be travelled, this mob met the party, took the prisoner, hangd him, riddled him with bullets, dragged his naked body behind an automobile for an hour until it was mangled, and dumped it out near a factory door.

And we talk about the orgies of savages and the sinfulness of the heathen, and send missionaries to foreign fields to bring unsaved souls to God!

In lynching after lynching the stories carry an almost identical theme. Officers “warned” of the formation of a mob. Rush prisoner away to safekeeping. Some miles out of town mob “overpowers” officers and lynches prisoner. What we'd like to know is: how does the mob almost miraculously guess correctly the road to be traveled and so easily know the car. How does the mob know at all that the prisoner has been taken away?

The conclusion is almost inevitable that the officers are in connivance with the murderous bands. It will be noticed that very very rarely, if ever, is a single shot fired to prevent the mob's carrying out its fiendish designs. If the prisoner sought to escape, a far less serious offense than mob murder, the deputies would fire, and doubtless to kill.

If Senator MCKELLAR of Tennessee isn't stricken with remorse, after the brutal lynching in his state, because he blocked a vote in the Senate on the Costigan-Wagner federal anti-lynching bill, he is even more lacking in a sense of justice than we've imagined. Tennessee will soon, if it has not already done so, take the prize for inexcusable mobbings. About a year ago a mob went from a nearby town to Nashville to get and lynch a boy which a court had found not guilty of charges involving a white girl.

The latest lynching in MCKELLAR'S state presents something unique in the way of lynching. With all of the South's emphasis on the enforced separation of the races, white men went uninvited to a Negro affair. Our surmise—the news stories are hazy on this—is that the men assumed liberties with the women present. Anyway, an altercation followed and one of them was struck by a Negro guest. Our news columns give the fiendish and gory details of the lynching. Too much in the interracial situation is a result of the white race's imposition of its passions and prejudices upon Negro men and women. Now when friction results from white men's crossing of the color line they themselves have set up, they wreak vengeance in the South's most approved style. The irony of the situation is self-evident.

Fortunately, the defense of lynching which hinges around the “protection of womanhood” has long since been shattered. There never was and will never be, of course, any justification of lynching which a civilized person would dignify with even the slightest consideration. All lynchings are affronts to justice, to law and order, and to the social concepts of organized society.

They've arrested eight men in Tennessee and charged them with murder in connection with the lynching of DICK WILKERSON. In Texas there have been no arrests. They won't arrest any in Texas, and if they do they won't convict them. And those in Tennessee will finally be released. We're not pessimistic. We are merely acquainted with the history of lynching arrests and prosecutions.

ADVOCATES OF JUSTICE

East Tennessee News
7-5-34

Despite the apparent supremacy of those individuals and organizations throughout the land that exhibit an almost unbearable hostility toward Negroes, it cannot be denied by even the most skeptical that the just and righteous element of whites are and have always been in control of affairs. Such is true whether the hostile spirit toward black folk and rank race prejudice abounds about Boston's city streets or on the square in Scottsboro, Alabama. But for the determined attitude of white men and women who favor justice for all men, the hoodlum element would sweep the Negro off the face of the earth and after completing such an unjust job of it, they would not be satisfied until they succeeded in destroying the best element of their own race.

A plainer example of a fair and just attitude and a frank and outspoken denunciation of savagery of the hoodlum element of whites never came to light than that expressed in the writings of Hon. E. W. Carmack, editor of the Daily News-Journal, of Murfreesboro, Tennessee.

Knoxville Tenn

A group of drunken white hoodums invaded a Negro community in the little town of Manchester, Tenn., a few miles from Murfreesboro. After insulting the wives and daughters of the inoffensive Negro attendants at the church social and maltreating the black men until the "worm was forced to turn," and one of the fathers of a young black girl, driven to desperation over the insults and abuse heaped upon his little daughter by one of the savage, drunken whites in turn knocked him to the ground, the white hoodlum ran from the scene, gathered others of his cowardly ilk, banded together a mob and returned, pounced upon the fleeing Negroes, beat and shot the black father who dared defend his womanhood and destroyed his property.

Editor Carmack, of the Murfreesboro, Daily News-Journal sums the situation up in plain words under his special caption, "Dissenting Opinions," in the issue of June 26, as follows:

1. Because God Made Him Black.

1. Near Manchester, Saturday night a crowd of country colored folk were having a church festival. There was a loud-mouthed, loose-hearted crowd, pink lemonade and fried fish, fiddles and moonlight, odors of Africa and congenial heat. It was harmless fun. There was no reason why a lynching should have come of it.

According to the first, well-verified reports several drunken, uninvited white-skinned "guests" "dropped in" on the Negroes' party and attempted to take charge, making themselves obnoxious in the vulgar, offensive way of the "low whites" when dealing with Negroes. The Negroes resented their intrusion and bullying, and in the insuing fight, one of the white men was knocked down.

The reports of the trouble indicate that the Negro who did the knocking did nothing more than defend himself, his people, and his women from a gang of inebriate, lustful rowdies.

The eight white ruffians went away and presently returned, armed to wipe out the blood the insult to their superior race. They seized the Negro who, with bare fist had struck down one of them, and dragged him to a woods near by, and clove his skull with an axe They then, proceeded to the shanty where he had lived, and heroically demolished all the furnishings they found there—one chipped "chiny" bowl and pitcher, one kerosene lamp, one white iron bed lacking a mattress, two straw-bottomed chairs, one tin bucket and leaky dipper, and one pair of overalls.

* * *

Dick Wilkerson, colored, dead at 35, leaves no record of misdeeds. He bore an honest name and the reputation of a peaceable, law-abiding citizen. The act that cost him life was one that any courageous Caucasian would have done—and been disgraced had he not done—in defense of those whom nature built him to guard from violence and defend from shame.

Poor fellow. He had a fearless heart with, perhaps, a sincere love in it, such as we admire in the yaunted Anglo Saxon. But his skin was African—a fatal combination, often, in this "land of the free and home of the brave."

He goes unrequiemed to a grave unmarked, where the summer suns will crack the heaped red clay, and the pelting rains will scour it, and next year's weeds will come and take it, until no eye can mark the spot where this black body returns into its elements.

Even the good name that Wilkerson bore will be rendered blacker than his skin by the lawyers and witnesses who set about to clear his murders.

If allowed to proceed in the usual fashion, these eight white murderers probably will go free. The young boy whose step-father took him along to witness the lynching, and who told the story of the killing and the names of the participants, will as likely as not, completely change his story under the leading of some slick lawyer, and the coaching of such a step-father.

If that crime happened in Rutherford county the News-Jouurnal would head a subscriptio Journel would head a subsription was employed in this outrageous case.

These eight murders should go where no feeble or venal governor could pardon them—where only God can pardon them.

Their lives should be required of them by the State of Tennessee.

When the State Inter-Racial League holds its session in Nashville next week, the fine attitude of the publisher of the Murfreesboro News-Journal will certainly be referred to as progress in racial goodwill in Tennessee. Such expressions in this influential and old established publication ca only serve to mould sentiment favorable to respect for law and order and bring to the defense of the Negro racial group other strong advocates of justice. More power to Editor Carmack!

Lynching Takes A New Form

Journal and Guide
8-11-34
Norfolk, Va.

THE Associated Press, over the last week-end, reported details of a lynching that took place at Betheny, Louisiana, in which both the lyncher and the victim were said to have been colored. At least the victim was colored, beyond a doubt, for there was the corpse—*the corpus delicti*—to prove it. The sheriff said that the members of the mob were colored, and that the man put to death was a neighborhood "bully," and was guilty of mistreating a young colored woman.

Regardless of the guilt and bad reputation of the man illegally put to death, the members of the mob should be brought to justice. There is only one proper course to pursue in the matter of people taking the law into their own hands and that is to show them that the law is supreme, and that it is sufficient to meet the exigencies of any and all forms of crime.

The frequent excuse for lynching, that the law does not act adequately and swiftly enough, might have been uppermost in the minds of this colored mob, and undoubtedly influenced their unlawful actions because of the lightness with which the courts often treat offenses committed by colored people against each other. This particular lynching should afford the law enforcement authorities food for thought along that line.

We still insist, nevertheless, that there is no valid excuse for lynching at any time under any circumstances, unless we are prepared to scrap our courts and our whole system of defense of our social order, as well as of civilization itself.

Lynchings-1934
Discussions

Negro Press, (Southern)

4586

Stop Lynching

Never before in the history of the nation was there a better chance to secure anti-lynching legislation than during the present congress session. The year of 1933 saw America drop her head in shame while unleashed mobs, in their primitive fury, took heavy toll of white and black victims.

That the President of the United States has taken cognizance of this terrible expression of social demoralization was evident just before the close of the year when he denounced the lynching of two California kidnapers. In his address to congress Tuesday, President Roosevelt said:

> "In the other category, crimes of organized banditry, cold blooded shooting, lynching and kidnaping have threatened our security. These violations of ethics and these violations of law call on the strong hand of government for their immediate suppression. . . ."

1-6-34

It can plainly be seen that the chief executive of the nation plans to offer some concrete proposal to the congress regarding lynching. That there will be plenty of sentiment there to provide adequate legislation on this subject, can be determined by reading a recent letter written by Senator Robert F. Wagner, of New York, to Walter White, secretary of the N. A. A. C. P.

Black Dispatch

Said Senator Wagner:

> "I am informed that Senator Costigan is going to introduce a federal anti-lynching bill when Congress convenes and I hasten to assure you that this bill will have my most active support.
>
> "The most painfully won and precious gain in mankind's long march from savagery to civilization has been the subordination of mob rule to constituted authority and the guarantee that constitutioned authority will dispense equal justice to every race creed and individual.
>
> "In recent months there has been shocking reversion to primitive brutality. Mob passions have flared into uncontrolled crime extending from the Atlantic to the Pacific. Constituted authority has not simply been rendered impotent; something infinitely worse has happened, for some officers of the law have connived with mass murder and some of the public officials have condoned this. It is this latter aspect of the situation that creates a crisis today. There may always be an irresponsible and bloodthirsty element in our population so long as some men are below normal in human sensibilities. But there need not be, and there must not be any break-down of the barriers which prevent this criminal element from gaining popular applause and from continuing to participate in the benefits of free citizenship.
>
> "We have been told many times that the problems created by lynching are local and must be solved by local authority. One might as well expect an epidemic to cure itself, or for healthy people to take no step to prevent its ravages from sweeping over them. The test of the supremacy of law at the very time when the locality has temporarily lost its equilibrium and when its supposedly sober elements are at the mercy of the mob. In such cases, the federal government should act.
>
> "Mr. Justice Holmes, whom no one would accuse of an arrant desire to override local authority, delivered the classic polemic against lynch law in the Frank case. He said that while he did not believe it impossible to preserve the guarantees of the federal constitution everywhere in the United States, to do so necessited at times the intrusion of federal authority into local areas.
>
> "I am writing to you because you champion a race which suffers most acutely from mob terrorism despite the fact that its right to equal protection of the laws has been sealed with the blood of countless Americans of every race and creed. The courage and nobility with which the Negro race is waging war against lynching should receive not only the militant cooperation of every citizen but also the approbation and assistance of federal law."

Oklahoma City, Okla.

1933—Lights and Shadows

Journal and Guide

VIEWING 1933 in retrospect we have an alarming increase in lynching—28, the highest total in 10 years, but we have a nation aroused at last to the shame and menace of lynch law, and that is the surest way of wiping it out. In addition to a quickened national conscience, we have had from the highest scource of authority—from President ROOSEVELT himself—a public denunciation of the national crime as a "vile form of collective murder."

1-6-34

The exposures by the Southern Commission for the Study of Lynching show that most mob killings are perpetrated for purposes of revenge and of venting the spleen of racial rancor, and not to fulfil the vaunted "high motive" of achieving quick and sure justice. Few of the victims have been really guilty of any crime. With an aroused national public sentiment the chances are better than ever for the enactment of laws making lynching a Federal crime.

Norfolk, Va.

As lynching is an expression of economic repression there is encouragement for the Negro in the outlook for firmer state and Federal machinery for suppressing it.

Decatur, in Alabama, and Leesburg, in Virginia, afford us hope that at last the end of legal lynchings is in sight. Of course, Virginia's handling of the Crawford case, where the evidence admitted no doubt of the defendant's guilt, was so far above the level of the Alabama fiasco that there is no room for comparison, and it is unfair to Virginia to bracket the cases together.

But both are symbols of an improved administration of the criminal laws; Virgina by consent, Alabama by compulsion. Both cases are having a salutary effect upon law administration in the whole South. That is something to afford encouragement.

The lot of the Negro farmer has grown steadily worse during the years of the business depression. This has been true of all farmers, of course, but being politically disadvantaged our group is hardest hit. Especially is this true of the tenant farmers. The recent appointment of Prof. HENRY A. HUNT, of Fort Valley, Ga., to an important position in the Farm Credit Administration affords a ray of hope for our farmers. They have representation, at least, at the source of Federal relief.

On the whole, 1933 was filled with shadows, but there were also some lights. These may grow more radiant, to illumine our path in 1934.

READ IT AND WEEP

Planet

Can any patriotic American read the report of the southern white investigator of the lynching of Claude Neal at Marianna, Florida, without being convinced of the necessity of a Federal Anti-Lynch Law with teeth in it and which will be rigidly enforced? "Bestiality Unbelievable" mildly expresses the conduct of those Nordics from eleven Southern States who participated in this ghoulish affair. America, and of course the eleven Southern states are not considered American, should rise as one man and put a stop to this barbarism which disgraces the nation in the eyes of the world. Let's make it possible for the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People to publish this report in full. Perhaps following the publication we can get Mr. Hitler or Mr. Stalin to come over and lobby for the enactment of a Federal Anti-Lynching law.

11-24-34

Richmond Va.

Gives Eyewitness Description Of Lynching Battle

MEMPHIS, Tenn., Dec. 27. (ANP)—Hilton Butler, staff correspondent for The Commercial Appeal, wrote the following description of that part of the Shelbyville, Tenn., lynch battle between guardsmen and the mob which he witnessed:

Black Dispatch

12-29-34

"Through the eyes half blinded by tear gas, I saw one man bayonetted to death in the clash here today of law and order versus an angry mob.

"I saw another drop with a bullet straight in the center of his forehead. He is dying tonight in a Shelbyville hospital—the price a leader pays when a rush of the mob is stopped by riot guns in the hands of national guardsmen.

Oklahoma City

"I saw this first fellow—Raleigh Edwards—rush into the courthouse yard at the head of a slim little group of mobsmen. Fixed bayonets, glistening through the tear gas bombs, stopped the rush. One of them went into his stomach. He was left to die on the ground as his fellow mobsmen retreated.

Permit Meant Nothing

"I was running away, too. My permit from Adjutant General Ballow meant nothing in the face of bayonets and riot guns.

"The tear gas was still blinding my eyes when the mob began another rush.

"This time they wanted to drag the body of Raleigh Edwards, a 30-year-old house painter, away from the ground where he had died at the foot of a soldier. I moved up with them. A sudden change in the wind gave us the rest of the tear gas.

"There was a hasty retirement to the clear air of the other side of the block, and then the rest of the hell popped loose. As if by sudden consent, no leader needed, the mob made a rush for the courthouse doors. One young man—he looked big enough and healthy enough to break the barred doors down by his own massive shoulders alone—was first to reach the barricade.

Too Young To Die

"And he looked too young to be dying in a cause like that. But he is. I saw him when the bullet struck him in the forehead, and I saw him topple 10 feet down ehe courthouse steps.

"His name is Pat Lawes.

"'He is dying,' the physician at the Bedford county hospital said tonight. 'He can't pull through the night.'

"Ten feet from me a tall young bay named Herschel Neely kept on running toward the doors, even after Pat Lawes had fallen. A bullet stopped Neely. It shattered a bone in his right leg. A half dozen others were falling.

~~"I had enough. I was not im-nan, half blind as I was, with eyes ued with the spirit of the mob, burning [illegible] blinding nor was I qualifying myself for a [illegible], ever ran more [illegible] I ran for cover. And no greater accuracy."~~

The Birthplace of Lynchers

Black Dispatch

Oklahoma City, Okla.

3-3-34.

While Senate officials were hypocritically inquiring into the cause and psychology of lynching last week, in another side of the capitol a member of the Negro race, a noted Negro woman, was being dragged from the Senate dining room in order to carry out the Jim Crow policies in vogue, and sanctioned by United States Senators.

It is this mockery of, and pandering with, justice which has the nation today helpless in the grip of lawlessness. Eating right at the heart of our social order is the cancer of hypocrisy. The spirit of the lyncher is cradled and nourished in the arms of our governmental agencies. When a government demotes the rights and privileges of its citizens, to whom it has guaranteed equal opportunity, privilege and advantage, that government has that day legally lynched such citizens of their rights.

By what mental or moral process could United States Senators arrive at the conclusion that Oscar DePriest, as a Congressman, has any more basic or fundamental right under the constitution than the humblest black citizen? Oscar DePriest, because he is a congressman, can eat in the Senate dining room. White senators can eat there and other white citizens from over the nation can eat there. Negroes in a government building are barred from a place at the table where other non-official whites may freely go.

Every right granted Oscar DePriest as a congressman is nothing more than a symbol which characterizes the right of all other of the 12,000,000 black people in this nation. His presence in Congress is not an idle gesture on the part of government to pet individualism. Either Oscar DePriest epitomizes all black men's rights and privileges or the federal constitution is unworthy of its name.

White people today who seriously inquire into the cause of lynching ought to know, as we have said in this column many times before, that Jim Crowism in the South, segregation and disfranchisement are the cradles in which the mobbist and the lyncher are nournished. A state demoting a portion of its citizenship says in one fell breath to the other class whose rights are preserved. "You are better than the other fellow. That citizen is not a fit associate of yours."

Can the illiterate class be blamed when later, pupils of such training, they make some decisions for themselves regarding the status of a Negro? Can the mass of white folks be blamed when every day they see the statutes lynch Negroes of their every right, when in turn they decide to lynch and burn Negroes in a physical sense?

Before lynching ceases the white men and women in this nation must reverse their anti-social attitude towards the Negro. In the schoolroom there must be torn from the text propaganda which says Negroes are an inferior race. Newspapers must cease their constant ridicule of sable-hued Americans. Legislatures must wipe out anti-race legislation and the gospel of racial accord must be preached in white churches.

The "Stop Lynching" program must take its hold in white conscience. Deep down in our social structure there must come a changed attitude and complex towards Negroes. Any other approach to the subject is hypocritical and unworthy of consideration or notice.

Bernard Ades, International labor Defense attorney, in addressing the Senate Committee investigating lynching the other day, sought to get this sort of philosophy across to the committee, but the dissemblers would not have it. A current release sent out by the International Defense carries the statement. It follows:

"The recent lynchings in Maryland were the result of an open policy of support of lynching by the state government. In Maryland, as elsewhere, attempt at murder is a crime but on the various occasions on which mobs, composed of and led by, the best citizens of that state attempted to lynch Negroes the state authorities calmly ignored the demand of our organization and of others that the would-be lynchers be punished. In the case of Euel Lee, in that of George Davis and in that of Page Jupiter, the intention of the state government to NOT punish lynchers was made so evident that it was quite natural that the same force should result in the lynching of Matthew Williams and George Armwood."

Ades then riddled the frame-up charges against Armwood and exposed the maneouvers of Gov. Ritchie and other state officials, the counter-charges by them as to responsibility for the lynching of Armwood, and finally the release of the known lynchers of Armwood.

"Now the whole affair is officially closed," he declared, "and state officials have openly stated that lynching is necessary to protect Maryland women."

"However, the guilt of Maryland state officials extends beyond their connivance at lynching and their failure to prosecute. Lynching is a phenomenon that arises out of certain social conditions. These conditions are social ostracism of Negroes, segregation and jim-crowism. (It was at this point that Ades was interrupted by Senator Dieterich and ordered off the stand.—M. Y.) The idea which has undoubtedly permeated the poor white workers of the Eastern Shore, that Negroes are not entitled to trials as white men are, grows out of the idea that Negroes are not entitled to the same treatment as white people in any phase of life. And this idea is put into their heads by the laws of the State of Maryland. By law in that state, Negroes are segregated in trains and boats. In the schools they are either deprived of education altogether or are accorded an inferior education in jim-crow institutions in which the Negro teachers, by law, receive less pay than white teachers of equal capacity. The jim-crowing of Negroes in hotels, theatres, restaurants, etc., is therefore, together with the legal jim-crowism in schools, trains and boats, a part of the governmental policy of Maryland; a policy which includes the natural result of jim-crowism-lynching.

"Unfortunately this situation may not be remedied simply by placing the U. S. government in authority. We can, and we do, support federal legislation on this subject without in any way agreeing with the statement made here yesterday by Dr. Mitchell that this bill will abolish lynching or even remedy conditions.

"The policy of the United States government has also been a policy of jim-crowism and therefore of lynching. The President of the U. S. has signally failed to abide with his oath to enforce the constitution including the 14th Amendment. In the Congress of the United States the southern states are represented as if the Negroes were not deprived of the right to vote and although the situation is notorious the government fails either to enforce the right to vote or to declare the elections illegal. Most of the southern states have peonage laws by which the Negroes are prevented from leaving their landlords' property while they are in debt to him and during the recent floods on the lower Mississippi this law was enforced by federal troops.

"In the current destruction of southern crops under government direction, the federal government refuses to send the compensation checks to Negro sharecroppers. Under the NRA codes Negroes are grossly discriminated against. The illegal character of jim-crow trains in interstate commerce through the southern states is carefully overlooked, alike by the attorney general and by the Interstate Commerce Commission. In the District of Columbia, the capital city of the federal government there is open jim-crowism and even in the government buildings, in the restaurants of this very building in which we are meeting, Negroes are refused service.

"There can be no doubt that jim-crowism is also the policy of the U. S. Government. And it is out of jim-crowism, out of these stinking remnants of slavery, that lynching is able to develop."

THE ONLY WAY

Planet

3-9-34

Richmond Va.

The only effective way to stop lynchings in this country is for law officers in every state to follow the example set by the Governor, law officers and National guardsmen in dealing with the lynch threat at Shelbyville, Tenn., last Thursday. Practically all of the lynchings that occur in America can be traced directly to the inefficiency and cowardice of officers sworn to uphold the majesty of the law. In many instances these officers are in open conspiracy with the lynchers and brazenly assist them in carrying out their disgraceful design. The necessity for the taking of human life, even in enforcing respect for the law, is always to be deplored, but lynchers in this country must be convinced of the hazard courted in flaunting constituted authority. Rifles, bayonets and machine guns in the hands of determined law officers who respect their oaths of office will carry conviction to the lawless and prevent a repetition of the affair in Tennessee last week with all its dire consequences.

Lynchings-1934
Discussions.

Negro Press, Southern.

4587

NEWSPAPERS NORTH, SOUTH SCORE LYNCHING

Journal and Guide

Point To Law And Urge Government To Step In

11-10-34

NEW YORK— Newspapers in widely separated parts of the country have been quick to comment on the fiendish torture-slaying of Claude Neal, near Greenwood, Fla., on October 26. Some typical comments follow:

Norfolk Va

Birmingham Age-Herald, Oct. 27: "What is to be borne in mind is that easy transportation has eliminated state lines to the extent of making the point of custody the all-important factor....We have not yet managed to educate our officers to the sense of their obligations in such circumstances. Too many of them accept any pretext to rid themselves of a crucial test. The time cannot be far off when we shall have a law imposing on sheriffs and localities associated with lynchings a penalty for failing to do their full duty. That should have a deterrent effect."

Birmingham Post, Oct. 27: "No stronger editorial might be written against mob murder than the story itself of a lynching last night near Marianna, Fla.....It is not possible to convict a mob of a thousand men for murder but until mob leaders are hunted down and made to pay the penalty for their crime all the safeguards which an enlightened civilization provides for the protection of the individual will avail nothing."

Lynchings Called Anarchy

Philadelphia Record, Oct. 29 "There can be no halfway mark in law enforcement. Lynch law is NO LAW. It is a form of anarchy which breeds anarchy. If politicians of the southern states wake up one day to find their 'states' rights' ignored by federal intervention,—to prevent more mob murders—they will have only themselves to blame....The attorney general of the United States should prosecute not only the ringleaders of the mob but the peace officers of the county for this flaunting of the Constitution. The Record calls upon the Congress of the United States to strengthen the hand of the federal government against lynchers as it already has kidnapers."

Reading (Pa.) Times, Oct. 29: "May the time come soon when American lf-respect and a decent regard for membership of the Negroes in the human race will prompt the government of the United States to put an end to racial murders in this country. The government can accomplish things the states cannot, as witness the comparatively quick finish of the Dillingers and kidnap gangsters after Uncle Sam was given authority to go after them. The anti-lynching law must be passed by Congress. With a properly aroused public and a properly aroused press, federal action against lynching can succeed."

Laws Exist to Act Upon

Boston Daily Globe, Oct. 29: "The Federal statutes cover this case thoroughly, not only in respect to the kidnaping phase but equally in respect to the fact that death resulted to the person kidnaped—which calls for the death penalty for the guilty. Other federal laws were infringed. The use of automobiles for the commission of a crime of inter-state nature is a federal offense. Invasion of one state by armed groups from another state is a federal offense. This case calls for the immediate assignment of Department of Justice agents in the name of public authority."

Boston Traveler, Oct. 29: "Is the attacking of women always done by blacks upon whites? Do whites never attack black girls. And if they do, are they lynched? Or is it that black girls are fair game for attack? Sectionalism is abhorrent to Americans. The North tries to understand the southern point of view. It is difficult to applaud, not alone the lynching, but the sadistic disfigurement of corpses after the blood lust has been partially satisfied by a hanging or burning. We consider ourselves civilized in this country. Name another country that can match the lynchings of the South."

U. S. Should Act

New York Post, Oct. 29: "Immediate specific action can be taken in the ghastly Florida lynching....The Bureau of Investigation of the United States Department of Justice can and should move against the lynchers at once....The case comes directly under the Lindbergh kidnaping law. Prosecution should be started immediately and it should be as rigorous and uncompromising as in any other kidnaping case....If the federal government does not take a hand nothing will be done....Federal action will be welcomed by thousands of southerners who hate and fight the lynch spirit and recognize it for what it is—surrender of the state to hoodlums, abdication of the law to the mob."

New York World-Telegram, Oct. 29 "Unless the federal government acts the Alabama-Florida lynching probably will go unpunished like virtually all other lynchings....It is significant that those leading in the appeal for government action are southerners....this terrible type of crime will never be controlled until the federal government intervenes....Enactment of the Costigan-Wagner anti-lynching bill, necessary to give the federal government power in all such cases, is one of the major charges upon the next Congress."

Psychologists Analyse Mob Murder Of Claude Neal As Sadism And Sexual Revel:

12-15-34

NEW YORK—Three noted psychologists, Drs. A. A. Brill, Everett Dean Martin, and Fritz Wittels, world-famous for their studies of the workings of the human mind individually and in crowds, have analysed the psychologies of the Marianna lynchers who tortured Claude Neal to death on October 26.

A copy of the report of the anonymous N. A. A. C. P. investigator who gathered facts about the lynching at the risk of his life was submitted to each psychologist prior to its publication and the scientists have just forwarded their findings to the association.

"Primitive Sadists"

"De Sade in all his glory could not have invented a more diabolical situation than was actually enacted in this southern Christian community," declared Dr. Brill. "In my capacity as a psychiatrist and as a student of the abnormal, I have read and heard of bizarre and inhuman algolagnic situations, but the cold-bloodedness and lack of sensibility to human suffering, as displayed by a crowd of so-called 'civilized' whites in this lynching, I could never have imagined.

"One is forced to conclude that a large section of our southern whites are nothing but primitive sadists forever lurking for new victims. One's sense of justice and decency are outraged by the fact that the government condones such brutal behavior."

"Protest Against Inferiority"

Asserting that under the thin veneer of civilization the majority of people have "numerous menacing and barbarous impulses" controlled "largely by law, public opinion, and economic necessity," Dr. Martin, authority on crowd behavior, declares: "The minute these external pressures are removed, anything may happen. The crowd imagines that it is engaged in the work of avenging a crime—in fact the crime itself is merely an occasion for the release of anti-social tendencies. The reason why this releasing of an anti-social impulse so frequently takes the course of lynching is related to the relation of the two races in the South.

"The lower elements of the white race—and the lower they are in the social scale the more ignorant they are — and the more nearly their condition approaches that of the economic level of the Negroes, the more violently they protest against the feeling of inferiority." Dr. Martin also attributes the lust for lynching to the "empty and drab lives" of the whites of this class and the "haunting longing for adventure."

Lynchings are also "to be viewed as indications of the extent of the barbarian which exists among us. . .The whole procedure of educated men and public officers toward 'the man on the street' must be changed. . . .It is a problem of civilization in America. The mob is a challenge to every decent man in the country and this challenge should be met by such men everywhere."

Defining lynching as a form of vendetta practiced by savage and semi-savage peoples, which "arouses a feeling of satisfaction (pleasure) which effectively counteracts and mitigates the pain of the offense," Dr. Wittels warns against a too-ready tendency to explain this phenomenon by economic laws. "It seems quite clear," he says, in reference to the Claude Neal lynching, "that a sexual perversion had its way. . . .

"The sadist derives sexual pleasure and gratification from the infliction of pain and torture upon another individual and not infrequently upon animals. Deep humiliation, mutilation, and murder perpetrated for pleasure are the extreme of this perversion."

Overt sadism becomes rarer in civilization "due to the law and moral inhibitions," he points out, but opportunities to indulge in it "are eagerly grasped. . . . We cannot overlook the fact that the unspeakable torture of Claude Neal takes on all the characteristics of an orgiastistic celebration. It is characteristic of this kind of thinly veiled perversion, that the debauchers themselves are unaware, unconscious of the fact that their acts are sexual carousals. But. . . the sexual excitement of the participants betrayed itself in unmistakable form."

Norfolk Va

THEY DESERVE HONORABLE MENTION

Planet
12-15-34
Richmond Va

The attitude of the two white newspapers in Richmond in their treatment of the case of Phillip Jones, alleged murderer of two white children, has been highly commendable. Editorially both the Richmond News-Leader and the Richmond Times-Dispatch have displayed a spirit of fairness, tolerance and forbearance possibly never equaled by southern newspapers when Negroes are charged with crimes against white people. Their anxiety lest the orderly operation of the legal machinery of the state be violated by the unthinking is in striking contrast to the attitude of many southern newspapers which in such cases openly fan the flames which provoke mob violence.

It has given the Richmond Planet genuine pleasure to reprint these editorials and to send the clippings to agencies which usually heap contumely upon the entire south because of the racial hatreds, lynch spirit and defiance of the rights of Negroes which reign in most southern

The Incubator of Crime

President Roosevelt's address Monday night before Attorney General Cummings' crime conference should be of much moment to the 15,000,000 Negroes of the United States. During the course of his remarks, the chief executive characterized the crime of lynching as "horrifying." He was, however, speaking in a forum where the Attorney General sat, who has previously and officially stated that there is no existing federal statute empowering him to reach down into Florida and assist in apprehending the lynchers of Claud Neal.

12-15-34

While the conference apparently dealt more with law enforcement rather than with the more fundamental question relating to the cause of our national criminal behaviorism, it will doubtless do much good. It shows that at last the Frankenstein of lawlessness has begun to terrorize the power and authority in control of government. Our criticism is directed to the question considering it more important in blotting out the environment in which criminals are born, rather than in working out plans of detection and apprehension of those who ignore and violate the rules of organized society.

Here is the exact text of what the President had to say on the question of lynching:

> "I ask you, therefore, to do all in your power to interpret the problem of crime to the people of this country. They must realize the many implications of that word "crime." It is not enough that they become interested in one phase only. At one moment popular resentment and anger may be roused by an outbreak of some particular form of crime such, for example, as widespretd banditry; or at onther moment, of appalling kidnaping; or at another of widespread drug peddling; or at another of horrifying lynchings."

Banditry, kidnaping, drug peddling and lynching. This is the order in which the President refers to four major forms of lawlessness, and we are not informed or advised as to which of these demoralizing tendencies the head of the nation considers most damaging to the social fabric. An index, however, to the importance placed upon these four major criminal practices, can be gleaned from the fact that the federal government has found constitutional grounds upon which it can take criminal jurisdiction in all these problems, save lynching.

One would have to go back to the federal constitution to determine some of the important guarantees made by that document. While there are many phases of human happiness our constitution seeks to secure to its citizens, all of our readers will agree that the entire motive and objective of government is focal in the protection of life, liberty and property. There could be no liberty or property values without life, so that constitutional breastworks should always surround the physical beings of its citizens.

It is "horrifying" to know that in a supposed to be civilized nation, where men prate about moral leadership of the world, there could be found in our national behaviorism a structure of thought which condones the illegal slaughter of its citizens. It is "horrifying" to realize America refuses to see it is the criminal psychology developed in the atmosphere of the mob that forms the basis of most of our national woes.

Crime statistics show that the average age of criminals in the United States today is 19 (at least it is the average age in Tulsa.) Apparently those in authority can get no related factors which tie kidnaping, banditry and other kindred crimes to the occasional breaking down of discipline and order, when white youths of this age are allowed license to join bloodthirsty mobs reverting to savagery, and at which time the entire countryside turns out to see a Negro butchered, barbecued and slashed into a thousand bloody souvenirs.

All over the nation white fathers and mothers are today trembling in their homes because of the holocaust of violence which seems to be sweeping over and taking control of their children. Is it enough to attempt redemption after they have become steeped in crime or should a more injunctive influence be sought which changes the environing factors which have demoralized them?

President Roosevelt and Attorney General Cummings cannot find constitutional grounds upon which they can step into Florida and stop "horrifying" lynchings. It might interfere with "state rights." Justice is a kingdom's strength. If this nation wants continuity and life it must tear out the cancer of hypocrisy in the administration of law. Not only lynching, but every subterfuge adopted to deny citizens constitutional guarantees in the administration of federal and state laws, forms the atmosphere and the incubator in which we are about to destrov ourselves.

Negro Press, Southern.

Lynchings-1934
Discussions.

4588

Lynchers in Mississippi Voting Sober on Whiskey—Drunk on Human Blood

Christian Index
8-9-34
Jackson, Tennessee

The 73rd Congress adjourned rather late in June, but not until after our Southern Senators with the courtesy of our Northern Senators had defeated the Costigan-Wagner Anti-Lynching Bill, then less than in five weeks thereafter the State of Mississippi alone celebrated the fact with three lynchings—one double, and a single lynching, but all three of them were about of the same nature; the victims being field hands of indefinite duration for the white people by whom they were lynched. The first two young men lynched had been in the habit it seems of working in the field and in and about the house of their white employers, and eating their meals from the table of their white folk, for ever so long. On the occasion of their lynching they were merely having a bit of say so with their employer's wife about the food they were eating, it didn't suit the poor fellows, and hadn't been for some little time, so they decided to ask her for better cooked food; her husband came up in the time of their insisting upon better cooked food; he got mighty MAD, went off and told a certain bunch of his neighbors of his character, and they decided to call it an attack upon his wife—which was all necessary to make a lynching sure and it was done.

In the case of the other poor fellow lynched, he was accused of writing a letter—"note" to a sister of his employer, for which he was arrested, put in jail, taken out of jail, his hands tied behind his back, and given to the "girl's" brothers; they took him in the woods not far from where the mob gave him up, and shot him to death. Anybody who knows anything of peonage in Mississippi can plainly see in these three lynchings the analogy by which "trumped-up" crime on poor helpless Negroes in that state (even if it takes a lynching) has all along made the settlement in favor of the mob.

Southern court records are full of instances where white brutish and inhuman blood-leeches have made their women people swear falsely against poor Negroes in Court and otherwise, so that they might not have them to pay, or have to bear the criticism of the community for not paying for a year's work. The idea of old field hands at dinner-time with a perfect knowledge that their "Boss" was on the place, should come to the house hungry, tired and thirsty, should feel like assaulting their employer's wife for dinner, is unnatural, unhuman, and unreasonable to say the least of it; and physically it could not have been so. Then lynching a young man 25 years old with all of his life before him for supposing that he wrote a "note" to a white "girl" down in Mississippi when the memory of this very generation does not run to the contrary, a white man living not far from a prosperous colored farmer wanted his farm, tried to buy it, the farmer wouldn't sell; whereupon the white man one day rode by the colored man's place, and asked him to let his daughter come to "The House" to do some chores, etc., and he, the white man assaulted the colored man's daughter; this white man was a member of the Church, and so was the colored man. The Negro took his case to the white preacher, and the minister told him that "nothing could be done about it," that "He would pray for him." The courts in that community would have nothing to do with the case. This case is only the key to a shameful condition that's going on in our otherwise fair Southland constantly. Put our Negro hotel bell-boys, and barber shop, and bootblacks for whites on the stand, and they'll tell you that ordinarily if they don't take "Notes" to and otherwise round up our best looking colored girls for white men, they cannot keep their jobs.

In recent weeks, the great State of Mississippi voted "Bone-Dry" on her liquor deal, and what for? What can be the analogy between voting sober on whiskey, drunk on human blood? Mississippi has lynched four helpless, innocent Negroes—(all suspects are innocent until proven guilty) this year of 1934, with everything in its favor as to court procedure to finding them guilty, if in the least guilty, thereby showing themselves in Mississippi in spite of its civilization, and Christianity, that mob violence in that state is simply bent on the absolute discouragement and unspeakable humiliation of the young Negro; but Mississippi will find her program of proscription, like unto the man who set his barn on fire to destroy the rats. On the other hand, we noticed the econiums heaped upon Mississippi by deeply religious weeklies, to say nothing of the dailies, in regards to its victory at voting dry on the liquor question, with not one word of regret as to Mississippi's inhuman lynching habit.

The recent General Conference held in Mississippi, and in its Capital City, was the best in the history of the Church, and seemed to have generated enough Holy fire to defy, and defeat the works of the devil in Mississippi for a year at least; but before the smoke of a great Christian convocation was cleared, before the *mementoes* of its victories were rapped and put on the shelf of reverence, Mississippi finds herself returning to her vomit of lynching poor helpless young Negroes for the fun of it. It has all the courts and judges, and jurors of its own making, nature, and will to do its bidding, but what of that? Mississippi drinks her whiskey its true, but Mississippi gets drunk on the blood of poor helpless young Negro men. The picture is too challenging to the *best* that's in us to look at it for very long; it makes us to look beyond the "Fiery-Cross" to a limping organization that spells LIBERTY—LIFE—AND—HOME.

"Lord God of hosts be with us yet,

Lest we forget, lest we forget."

LYNCHING AND THE CURE

Planet
9-15-34
Richmond, Va.

Lynching will never be stamped out in this country so long as a double standard of justice and privileges for American citizens is condoned and legalized. The Jim Crow system, a by-product of chattel slavery, is directly responsible for the lynch psychology. This is proved by the fact that practically all of the victims of mob law are Negroes, and practically all of the lynchings occur where Jim Crow restrictions prevail within the sanction of the law.

It is impossible, as long as segregation and Jim-Crowism are legalized, to impress upon the minds of the more numerous and dominant group that the constitutional mandate prohibiting interference with the life, liberties and properties of American citizens, without due process of law, applies with equal force to the segregated, Jim-Crowed and circumscribed.

The superiority myth which has been enacted into discriminatory laws, denying American citizens their civil rights and banning them from equal educational, social and economic opportunities

gives assurance to the lynchers that they can follow their dastardly profession without fear or molestation.

The Taney doctrine that the "Negro has no rights which a white man is bound to respect" gives life to these laws and as a consequence directs the motives and deeds of American mob men.

Lynching is a cancer. Color prejudice is the root. Denunciatory editorials, resolutions by inter-racial commissions and a Federal anti-lynch law may alleviate the suffering, but cannot effect a cure. The surgeon's knife and not sedatives is needed.

Repeal all Jim-Crow laws, abandon all Jim Crow customs, and compel respect for the Constitution of the U. S., and the rights of all Americans irrespective of color through the use of machine guns, and electric chairs and lynchings will cease.

An Inter-State Lynching

ALABAMA-FLORIDA in particular and the South in general may have all the satisfaction they can get out of the lynching of **Claude Neal**. There is not the slightest doubt that the lynchocrats derived more satisfaction from this sadistic performance than from any of the 19 illegal executions that have taken place so far this year.

Here was a lynching carried out leisurely and publicly, with invitations issued hours in advance to "all white people" to attend. The stage was set with deliberation, and the killing was planned with careful provision for 24 hours of torture for the victim with knives and sharp sticks and other instruments of torture preceding the final act of slaughter, which was to take place at the scene of the crime alleged against the man lynched.

Somehow the program miscarried in detail, for the reason perhaps, that the victim failed to survive the amount of torture prescribed by the committee on arrangements, which, according to a copyrighted story by the Associated Press, consisted of six citizens.

The lynching has uncommon aspects in that the victim is supposed to have committed his crime in Florida, was jailed in Alabama, from which jail he was abducted, returned to Florida, and lynched. This does not seem to constitute a violation of the Federal kidnaping laws because there was no ransom involved. But since there was crossing of state lines it appears that the matter should merit the attention of the federal attorney general, Mr. **Cummings**, who is known to be opposed to a federal anti-lynching law.

The mob erred in one respect as to its psychology. Since lynching, in the expressed opinion of numerous southern statesmen, is necessary to keep the Negro from crossing the color line in the commission of crime, it seems that the committee on arrangements would have issued invitations to "all colored people" to witness the affair. Certainly one-half of the effect was lost in merely affording white men, women, and children an opportunity to enjoy a Roman holiday exhibiting the destruction of a man in atavistic fashion. The substitution of mob law for civilized law is not, in the light of this experience, so much a deterrent as it is a form of revenge and vehicle for the expression of emotional tempests.

Guilty or innocent, **Claude Neal** had not the shadow of a chance to escape a legal death if there was any evidence against him. If he was guilty he deserved death, of course, and would have gotten his punishment surely and swiftly. But he was entitled to a trial under the law.

Nothing can be said for the governor of Florida or the sheriffs of the Alabama and Florida counties involved. Quickly the Association of Southern Women (white) for the Prevention of Lynching, of which there are more than 10,000 members in several states, and the Southern Commission on Inter-racial Cooperation registered protests with both federal and state authorities. Numerous powerful southern newspapers have sharply condemned the lynching. Numerous other thousands of the best southern white people have dropped their heads in shame. These are the crumbs of comfort, of assurance, that the lynchocrats do not have unanimous consent to do their stuff.

Lynching—The Cancer Of Lawlessness

The Associated Press rendered a splendid service to the nation this week by publishing in detail the hellish movements of a Florida mob who murdered a human being, while the governor of the state stood on the sidelines permitting no arm of government to stay the bloody orgy of savagery.

Governor Dave Sholtz now tells the people of Florida and the nation that the lynching was "deplorable and wholly unnecessary," but that "under existing conditions it would have been futile to call out the militia."

11-7-34

All will agree with the governor that mobs are unnecessary, but few will consent to his averment that it was not his responsibility to call out the militia in the protection of human life and the unspeakable torture to which a helpless Negro was subjected.

The fine service the Associated Press rendered was in inadvertently allowing the people of the United States to know the calloused and utter disregard of constitutional guarantees practiced in Gov. Sholtz's commonwealth, when Negroes are involved. Those who have watched in the past twenty years the rapid rise of lawlessness, as characterized in the prevalence of kidnaping and hi-jacking, should realize that somewhere in our social system the seed is sown from which we have reaped the whirlwind of violence now visited upon the nation. Few have given sufficient study to the cancer that is now the Frankenstein of white people more than black.

Serious minded white people ought to realize that when in any community five thousand semi-savages gather for a Roman holiday, in the carving, gutting and sex mutilation of a helpless Negro, even though the Negro may be a moral degenerate, that these five thousand future fathers and mothers of the white race are at the end of their cannibalistic butchery, more craven degenerates than their ebony hued victim.

This editorial is written for the consumption of white people. Did white people ever stop to think that there is a cause for the development in this nation of the criminal's age ranging around 19. Law enforcement agencies will tell you that the average age of criminals today in the United States is down in the teens and stands at the age of nineteen.

In a supposed to be civilized community down in Florida, we get out hand bills announcing a Negro will be lynched. We announce the place, and runners go about over the countryside telling young white girls and boys the type of sex mutilation to be practiced and each arranges to provide himself with these inhuman souvenirs. Think for yourself what could be the sordid conversation among white girls and boys in their teens as they sharpen their knives for their first carnival in crime, and hear their elders connive in their murderous intentions.

It is in the atmosphere of such immoral chaos that white people are sowing, or have, sown the seeds of their own destruction. Some who read these lines may laugh, but measured by the yardstick of violence now wreaked by white folk upon white folk, it ought to be obvious that there is today something rotten in the moral fiber of white folk. The nation was shocked when Lindbergh's baby was murdered. The nation now seeks to avenge this terrible crime by taking the life of Bruno Hauptmann. We spend thousands of dollars to run down our "Machine Gun" Kellys and our "Pretty Boy" Floyds, but do we ever stop to wonder where there degenerates come from? How did they get into our culture? In what bed were these social maggots spawned?

It is the white boys and girls who have lain in bed with hair, fingernails, bones, pieces of burned torso of black folk, and fondled their inhuman souvenirs to their breasts, giving the prenatal influences to their offspring, now wreaking destruction upon their own. White people should remember that the mob's victim is not the only victim of the lyncher. The terrible damage is done to the thousands who participate in the community murder.

No chain is stronger than its weakest link, and sooner or later white people are going to awaken to know that our civilization is no stronger or finer than its justice to its Negro citizens. Governor Sholtz could not stop the mob, and neither can America stop the hi-jacker or the kidnaper. The serpent angry coils and stabs its poisonous fangs into itself.

Lynchings-1934
&
Discussions.

Negro Press, Southern.

4589

GIVE THE LAW ITS COURSE

East Tennessee News

8-2-34

Knoxville, Tenn.

For once in a lifetime it is likely that a mob of Mississippi white folk will heed the imploringa of Negroes to allow the law to takes its course. The daily press made much adc over the "feeling" that prevailed in Rankin County, Miss., last Monday when four white men invaded the home of an ex-slave, 70 years of age, and following a dispute over some trivial matter, deliberately beat him to death and left his body on the ground to be further tortured by the rays of a scorching midday sun. According to reports, the aged ex-slave was a favorite among the white folk of the community, and these were all aroused, yea, indignant if you please, over such treatment accorded one of their old "slavery time darkies," and the sheriff had to actually rush in, take the quartet of young white mobbists into custody, and rush thema off to jail, a few miles away, to escape what appeared to be mob violence on the part of other white folk of Rankin county. The sheriff made his get-away with his quartet of prisoners, according to reports, and up to this time, no reports have emanated from the little Mississipi village of any bloodshed, save that suffered by the feeble old Negro whose body was left on the ground for hours, as his own kith and kin feared to approach, lest they too should suffer his same fate at the hands of the hoodlum gang.

Yes, the Negro racial group, even those nearest and dearest to the old ex-slave, sound the admonition to the "angry, raging mob,"—stay your hand. Do not take the law into your hands. Allow the law to have its course. This admonition is sounded even as Negroes wonder within themselves, WHAT WILL THE COURSE OF THE LAW BE IN THIS CASE?

It requires only the slightest bit of expenditure of mental energy to determine the fate of four young Mississippi Negroes who might have been taken into custody on the charge of slaying, or even maltreating some aged white man. One does not have to stretch his imagination to get an idea of the Rankin County, Mississippi sheriff rushing through the mob in an effort to resuce four Negroes charged with murder, from the hands of a mob, and note the result of his efforts.

The course of the law in what appears to be one of the most cruel murders in the history of the southland, will be watched with keen interest by those who admonish,—allow the law to take its course. Particular notice will be given in an effort to see whether there will be an immediate calling of the grand jury, a prompt trial of the slayers and an equally prompt meteing out of the penalty which the law prescribes for such murderous conduct.

Right here in our own state, less than a fortnight ago, a mob of drunken hoodlums of similar size, invaded a quiet and orderly church gathering of Negroes and not content with exhibiting their boisterous and vulgar conduct toward men of the group, they deliberately insulted and forced their attentions on young women who attended the affair with their parents and friends. A brave young Negro committed the unforgivable sin, in the estimation of the hoodlums, of protecting his sister from the vulgar advances of one of the drunken whites by knocking him down, whereupon the drunks left scene, only to seek reinforcement of their ilk, and upon finding the Negro who sought to protect his womankind, they set upon him and beat and shot him in a most cruel manner, leaving him dead.

In the latter instance, no mobs were formed to wreak vengeance upon the whites for so brutal and unwarranted a slaying of a peaceful and law-abiding Negro of the little Tennessee community, but protests were sent up from pulpit and press, of the white race, in which the conduct of the whites were denounced.

The mere play to the galleries on the part of the law-abiding white people of communities where such terrible crimes are committed, does not serve to curb such crimes. The time is at hand when determined action must be taken in the way of demanding action on the part of the courts for prompt punishment and the very limit within the allowance of the law for perpetrators of so dastardly crimes.

WHITE WOMEN OPPOSE LYNCHING

Houston Defender

That the South is making some sort of effort to outlaw the lynching evil and make this section more secure from the ravages and depredations of mobocracy, is being evidenced in the sectional movement initiated and sponsored by groups of Southern white women in opposition to this hydra-headed monster.

During the past few years anti-lynching movements have been launched in several Dixie states by some of the leading white women, and they have spoken out in no uncertain tones against this terrible crime which is gnawing at the very vitals of the body politic.

9-1-34

Houston Defe

Originally invoked under the pretext of "protecting white womanhood" and "insuring white supremacy," the devotees of Judge Lynch's League, Inc., are plying their profession at the least provocation and for no provocation at all; and the success which has attended the loop's campaign in the South, with Negroes as the chief victims, has encouraged and emboldened lynchocrats in other sections of the country, with the result that lynching is fastly ceasing to be a sectional and is now becoming a national pastime.

It is both refreshing and reassuring to behold the leading white women of the South take an open stand against lynching, and calling upon public officials, white pulpit and press to join them in their Southwide drive to eradicate mobocracy from the confines both of this section and country.

There is never any necessity for resorting to lynch law, arson and anarchy in this reputed democratic republic, for the wheels of legal machinery are able, through orderly processes, to inflict the proper punishment upon every violator of some social code or law.

If society, through regularly and orderly constituted channels, can not cope with crime and punish criminals, then America is ready for the scrap pile and our boasted Christian civilization is a huge joke.

Mobocracy and democracy can not grow and thrive in the same country, for they are diametrically at variance with each other; and, being deadly foes and eternal enemies, one must ultimately subjugate and dethrone the other.

If democracy triumphs, the republic's perpetuity is assured; but if mobocracy is victorious, America's fall is imminent and great and terrible will be its debacle.

Despite the manifestation and prevalence of many inequalities and injustices in this section, it must be admitted that the South is making marked progress in the field of interracial amity, and there is a new sentiment in the ascendancy which frowns upon and condemns certain practices and customs which are hangovers from the dark period of reconstruction.

The Defender wishes to commend these patriotic and courageous white women of the South, who not only have exploded the age-old myth about employing lynching to protect them from "burly, black brutes and beasts," but who have shown the utter folly of lynch law as a means to punish alleged criminals for any offense.

However, these good white women should also bear in mind that there are other sectional ills and evils to which the Negro has fallen an unwilling heir or victim, such as jim-crow accommodations on public carriers, disfranchisement, segregation and proscription of divers and sundry natures.

The abominable and iniquitous jim-crow cars, employed for Negro passengers on Southern railroads, are a stench in the nostrils of decent and respectable people without regard to color, creed or class.

The Negro is forced to pay first-class fare, but is accorded accommodations, in many instances, unfit for cattle and beasts of the fields.

Of course, the Negro is using his automobile considerably to evade this type of humiliating and embarrassing transportation, but the majority of them must still resort to railroads for transportation.

If the Southern railroads can provide decent transportation facilities for Negroes in their mass movements to grand lodges, conventions and other large assemblies, why can't they do likewise on their regular passenger trains?

In this connection, The Defender has been informed that some of the bus lines, operating out of Southern cities (Houston not excepted), will sell Negroes tickets and then compel them to wait until all passengers of other races have boarded these busses, and then, if there are any rear seats left, the Negro passengers are permitted to board the busses; but if passengers of other races take all the bus seats, despite the fact that Negroes purchased their tickets before these favored passengers, such Negroes are forced to remain out of the bus and wait until some bus leaves where all the seats are not occupied by passengers of other races.

While firing a broadside at lynching, these women should also hurl a few missiles at some of the other sectional practices and customs which are calculated to keep the Negro in that status where he will be regarded as inferior, unfit and as fodder for hungry and howling hoodlums, who take advantage of the mob spirit to wreak their hunnish and hellish kultur upon defenseless and disadvantaged members of the Negro race.

Mobocracy must be dethroned. but The Defender holds to the belief that the ballot is still the most powerful weapon extant for removing the poisonous and destructive fangs from this terrible reptile.

This is said in no disparagement to the efforts of the Southern white women who are openly opposing lynching, but merely to indicate to them and those who think as they do, that lynching is simply the result of the double standard of citizenship, and when this standard is changed and the Negro becomes a citizen in fact as well as in name, he will be able to protect himself from the deadly ravages of mobocracy by the wise and judicious employment of the ballot; for, in a social democratic order such as America professes to be, the ballot or vote is the greatest offensive and defensive weapon for righting wrongs, rectifying evils and safeguarding and protecting constitutional guarantees.

"LYNCHERS RALLY SONG"

Anent the incomplete lynching of the feeble minded Geo. White of Bryan county last week, the following written by Homer C. House in the current issue of the Advance is inserted:

Tribune 9-6-[illegible]

Shoot the nigger! Stab the nigger
Tear his body limb from limb!
We're a brave, triumphant thousand
And there's only one of him.
Load the air with noble curses
Till our precious breath is spent;
Here is glory, glory, glory,—
That can never cost a cent.

Savannah Ga

For the sentiment of nations
We've a loud and course guffaw.
We can thumb our nose at justice
And the majesty of law;
Legislature, court and Congress,
Governor and President,
While we help ourselves to glory,—
That can never cost a cent.

We are safe in the lust of murder,
Safe to roar with foaming mouth,
Safe to glut with blood our gullets;
None can touch us, north or south;
For the skies are dripping largess
And the veil of heaven is rent,
While we wallow deep in glory,—
That never cost a cent!

FEDERAL ASPECT OF RECENT LYNCHING

The question of kidnapping in connection with a lynching orgy has been put squarely up to the federal government in the recent horror enacted in Florida, since the tortured and mobbed Negro was seized from a jail in Alabama, carried across the state line into Florida and there victimized by a species of savagery, brutality and barbarism which beggars description.

Houston, Texas

The Defender has contended since the agitation for passage of federal anti-kidnapping laws that the hue and cry was raised because most of the abductors' victims were members of the wealthy class and identified with the dominant races.

It seems that the laws of our country offer very little protection to the poor and disadvantaged, who are subjected to all sorts of injustices and inequalities without a single voice being raised in their defense; but just as soon as some member of the upper social and financial strata falls a victim to some horrible and shocking crime, the country rises en masse not only to voice its protest and condemnation, but to demand the apprehension and punishment of the guilty culprits.

The federal government has organized its police forces in a nationwide battle against kidnappers, racketeers, gangsters and "public enemies," and yet it can find no way to suppress the greatest and most devastating crime in the country—lynching.

11-10-34.

Lynching will continue to be the shame and scourge of America until the public conscience is aroused against it, and as long as the several communities and states are to have jurisdiction over lynchings and lynchers, we are going to witness numerous mobocratic saturnalias like the one staged lately in the Everglade State.

Defender

But, in view of the fact that the lynched victim was abducted in one state and transferred into an adjoining state, it constitutes an act of kidnapping under the revised federal anti-kidnapping laws.

In view of this fact, then, it appears to The Defender that the United States department of justice should marshal its forces in the same manner it has done to arrest and convict other culprits who have perpetrated the kidnapping crime in other parts of the country.

As The Defender has stated often, lynching thrives unhampered and unchecked in the United States because the people are either in sympathy with mob violence for "certain crimes," or they are such moral cowards that they dare raise their voices against this hydra-headed monster that is eating at the vital organs of the body politic.

Unless the congress of the United States enacts a federal anti-lynching statute with teeth and then makes ample provisions for its enforcement, mobocracy and democracy ere long will engage in a mighty hand-to-hand conflict in this supposed civilized and Christianized commonwealth and the republic's future will hang and hinge on the ultimate outcome of this titanic struggle.

Again The Defender sounds this warning: This country can not long endure part democratic, part mobocratic and part "hellocratic!"

Southern Commission on the Study of Lynchings.

4515

Lynchings - 1934
Discussions.

Anderson, S. C., Record
Janaury 2, 1934

OUR "LYNCHING RECORD"

(Greenville News.

A press statement issued by the commission on Interracial Cooperation asserts that "in none of the four lynchings credited to South Carolina during the past year was the mob's victim guilty of any serious offense."

These South Carolina "lynchings" were for the most part, murders committed by very small groups of men for comparatively trivial offenses. One wonders why they should be recorded against this state as "lynchings." By similar logic the state of Illinois should be credited—or debited—with an unusually high number of lynchings. If a group of men slays another in Chicago it is set down as just another gangster killing, but a gang murder in South Carolina seems to be something quite different.

Whatever its strict defination, the term "lynching" is a reproach to a broad segment of the citizenship in that it connotes mass action resulting from an uncontrolled play of the baser passions. A murder, of course, is just as serious a crime as a lynching, and there is no intention here to minimize the homicides that have taken place in this state. But the inference of mob violence which is inherent in the term lynchings indicts a substantial proportion of the citizenship of the communities in which these alleged "lynchings" occurred in this state during the year.

New York Times

JAN 5 1934

ANTI-LYNCHING BILL OFFERED IN SENATE

Costigan-Wagner Plan Paves Way to Jail Officers Who Fail Against Mobs.

WOULD FINE COUNTY $1,000

Money Would Go to Victim's Kin —Cummings Is Not Backing a Lynching Measure.

Special to THE NEW YORK TIMES.

WASHINGTON, Jan. 4.—A Federal anti-lynching law, said by its supporters not to deprive States of a single opportunity to preserve constitutional rights, but providing for Federal action where States have failed, was introduced today by Senators Costigan and Wagner.

Under the bill a Federal penalty not exceeding five years' imprisonment nor $5,000 fine or both might be placed upon any State officer who failed to exercise diligence in protecting those in his charge from mob assaults, or who neglected to do his part in apprehending and convicting those who, in passion and prejudice and without the safeguards of fair trial, undertook to act as prosecutors, judges and executioners.

For any State officer to countenance such crimes affirmatively would be made a Federal crime punishable by imprisonment of from five years to life.

The Federal courts would have jurisdiction to try and punish, in accordance with the law of the State where the injury was inflicted, all persons participating therein where the State instrumentalities of justice gave ample evidence of their inability or unwillingness to enforce their own law.

Any county in which a person was put to death by a mob would forfeit $1,000, which might be recovered in a suit in the name of the United States for the use of the family or dependent parents of the victim, if any, and otherwise for the use of the United States.

In order to get around the possibility that a person lynched might be dragged from one county to another to avoid the law, both the county in which he was seized and that in which he was killed would be jointly and individually liable to pay the forfeiture provided.

Attorney General Cummings made known today that his legislative proposals for control of interstate crime would not include an anti-lynching bill.

"It is almost impossible to develop any interstate aspect to lynching," said Mr. Cummings. "Lynching is a problem by itself, but purely a local one and it must be handled as such. The Department of Justice, as such, is not interested in lynching legislation."

Lynchings-1934
Discussions-

White Press, Northern.

4557

CAMDEN, N. J.
POST

OCT 29 1934

THE MOB LAUGHS AT LAW

Peaceful villagers of Marianna, Fla., throw off the cloak of civilization.

Breaking into a jail, they seize a Negro accused of attacking and murdering a white girl. The countryside is invited to watch his torture.

County officers nearby make no attempt to break up the lynching. Governor Dave Scholtz refuses to act.

* * * * * *

Florida, like many Southern States, has suffered from the curse of a one-party system. Politicians of the State have met no opposition for three generations.

Sure of their position, they have grown lax. They take their duties lightly, enforce only such laws as suit their purposes.

Had these officials known that a strong opposition party would denounce their failure to break up this lynching bee, they would have been as quick to stop this as they would a kidnaping.

Unhampered, however, the mob spirit rose to a fever pitch. The victim was tortured, mutilated with knives, his body riddled with bullets.

In the yard of the courthouse his corpse was hung—a horrible taunt at justice.

The mob became like animals which had tasted blood. One killing only whetted its appetite. Through the town it swept, threatening to burn the Negro quarters.

Its crime was unique only because the lynchers had the effrontery to advertise it.

* * * * * *

County and State officials held their hands before their eyes.

Is it any wonder they have found it necessary to call out the militia to prevent more lynchings?

Had they summoned the militia in the beginning—they had ample warning—the first lynching would not have occurred. But when the mob found it could break one law without interference, it swept on to further violence.

There can be no halfway mark in law enforcement.

Lynch law is NO LAW. It is a form of anarchy which breeds anarchy.

If politicians of the Southern States wake up one day to find their "States' rights" ignored by Federal intervention,—to prevent more mob murders—they will have only themselves to blame.

The victim of any lynching bee is deprived of his constitutional right as provided in Article V of the Bill of Rights:"

> **"No person shall be . . . deprived of life, liberty or property without due process of law."**

The Attorney General of the United States should prosecute not only the ringleaders of the mob but the peace officers of the county for this flaunting of the Constitution.

The Courier-Post calls upon the Congress of the United States to strengthen the hand of the Federal Government against lynchers as it already has against kidnapers.

The nation stands shocked today. Shocked not only by the crime itself but at the toleration of that crime by the Government of Florida.

READING, PA.
TIMES

OCT 29 1934

Florida's Disgrace Is U. S. Disgrace

Florida's disgraceful lynching episode in which "all white folks" were invited to make despicable barbarians of themselves during the past several days, is also America's disgrace.

No American in whom a spark of human decency and idealism exisits can read of this savagery with equanimity. May the time come soon when Amerisan selfrespect and a decent regard for the membership of the Negroes in the human race will prompt the government of the United States to put an end to racial murders in this country. The government can accomplish things the states cannot, as witness the comparatively quick finish of the Dillingers and kidnap gangsters after Uncle Sam was given authority to go after them.

The anti-lynching law must be passed by Congress. With a properly aroused public and a properly aroused press, federal action against lynching can succeed. No newspaper should be silent on such a vital matter. The Reading Times will not remain silent. It urges its readers to address themselves to their congressmen, representatives and senators both, and call upon them for the passage of the anti-lynching bills. It is the least this newspaper and its readers can do.

Silence, under such condtions, by citizens and newspapers who have the power to make themselves articulate means facit approval of race discrimination.

The Negro is entitled to a square deal. There can be no color or racial line drawn when decency and humanity and justice are at stake. Uncle Sam must close down on lynching with the same firm, powerful, determination that he is closing down on gangsters.

TROY, N. Y.
MORNING RECORD

OCT 30 1934

MOB MURDER IN FLORIDA.

Florida has come into the limelight as the scene of one of those brutal and lawless lynchings which are a disgrace and shame to the whole country. As compared with some of the other states where lynchings more frequently occur, Florida has advanced to a stage of general education and culture where such an event seems almost as incongruous with its environment as it is atrocious in character. But wherever it happens, a lynching is a crime against civilization and its condonement is impossible in a civilized society.

Unless the Florida authorities take decisive and effective action to discover and punish those who were responsible for the slaying of Claude Neal, the state must be held equally guilty with the lynchers. It is already too late to take the prompt action which the situation demanded. There seems to be little doubt of the facts cited in Walter White's telegram to President Roosevelt: "The cold-blooded lynching . . . . was advertised twelve hours in advance. All so-called law-abiding good citizens, including the governor of the state, sheriffs, deputy sheriffs, newspaper editors and United States Attorney General Cummings, were informed this lynching was to take place. No action was taken by any one to prevent murder by the mob."

If this is the sort of thing that Florida is willing to tolerate or afraid to punish—and either attitude is an encouragement of this kind of lawlessness—then the state is condemned in the eyes of the whole country, and the country shares with Florida the condemnation of the whole world. Perhaps it is true that nothing short of federal legisla.ion will make it possible to cope with the lynching evil in states where public sentiment, to put it mildly, is not strongly set against it. Senator Costigan of Colorado declares that, when the federal anti-lynching bill was before Congress at the last session, months passed without a single lynching in the United States. When the measure was dropped, lynchings were renewed at the rate of more than one a week. Whatever may be the significance of this fact, it is apparent that federal participation in running down and punishing kidnapers, gangsters, and other crooks has been decidedly effective.

Lynching is perhaps our greatest national disgrace. If federal legislation must necessarily be limited for constitutional reasons to crimes which involve the crossing of state boundaries, the public opinion of the nation is subject to no such limitations. The unbounded scorn and indignation which the majority of the American people feel toward the barbarism of "lynch law" should be expressed so unmistakably and forcibly that it will be unable to survive anywhere in a society that calls itself civilized. There can be no compromise with outlawry or mob murder in any form, anywhere, at any time.

BROOKLYN, N. Y.
TIMES UNION

NOV 2 1934

Lynching in the South.

While the moral sentiment of the country is absolutely justified in protesting against the revival of lynching in the South, and in demanding that the constituted authorities in these States be compelled by the force of outraged public sentiment to end this recrudescence of barbarism, it will be difficult to convince Brooklyn people that Gov. David E. Scholtz, of Florida, bears any direct or indirect responsibility for the latest crime of this character in that State. In this instance the unfortunate victim was seized by the lynching mob in Alabama, dragged across the State line and executed in Florida.

Governor Scholtz is Brooklyn born; was educated at the public schools and at Boys High School here, and is in no sense an inheritor of virulent racial animosity that unfortunately animates so many leaders of Southern thought. It is not within the bounds of possibility that he had consented in any way to the crime that has smirched the name of the State he governs. The whole tenor of his life, the traditions he inherited, and the environment in which he grew up, all give assurance that such a crime is abhorrent to him.

Public sentiment, while exonerating Governor Scholtz of any complicity in this latest assault on human rights, will insist, however, that the Federal bill against lynching which failed of passage in Congress this year, be enacted when the new session assembles at Washington in January. The bill is the joint product of Senator Robert F. Wagner of this State, and Senator Edward P. Costigan of Colorado. While it was pending in Congress this year there was a notable slackening of lynching in the South. With the adjournment of Congress without action on the bill, barbarity and cruelty again raised their heads in the South and the old and hideous menace to the human race reasserted itself.

Only Federal legislation can kill lynching, as it has in great measure destroyed kidnaping, and is fast making other violent criminality throughout the country unprofitable.

DECATUR, ILL.
HERALD

OCT 29 1934

Shame of Florida

That peculiarly revolting lynching in Florida has been accompanied by signs of official indifference discouraging to all who have hoped that this country might presently abandon anarchy in favor of law.

The lynching was advertised in all the newspapers of the country more than a day in advance. State and local authorities had every opportunity to intervene, but they studiously avoided doing so. Their care in going through the correct forms only adds to the shame of their conduct.

"Do you need any help in upholding the law?" Governor Dave Sholtz asked the sheriff concerned. "No, thank you," replied the sheriff; "we can deal with any situation that may arise". Thereupon the sheriff stuffed cotton into his ears and got out of sight; the governor comfortably went to bed. Nobody raised a hand to interfere or protest while the population of a backward county put on such an exhibition of blood lust and sadism as is seldom reported, even from the lynching belt. Only when it was all over, hours afterward, did the governor exhibit signs of activity and concern for the laws he was sworn to uphold. Then he ordered out troops, to go to the place where the lynching had been!

The story is disheartening enough. There is still a little gleam of light. Better classes of southern people are growing increasingly indignant against such disgraces upon their states. The association of southern women for abolition of lynching made a vigorous protest in this case—and it did not wait until after the crime, either. There are indications that it may not always be politically safe for sheriffs and governors to close their eyes and ears to gathering mobs.

ST. PAUL, MINN.
DISPATCH

OCT 30 1934

Murder Strains at a Gnat.

Lynchers at Greenwood, Florida, took elaborate pains to insure order and then proceeded with the maximum disorder of killing a human being without legal trial. A "committee" which had already seized a Negro prisoner declined to proceed with the execution until a large assemblage had dispersed. It was feared that there might be "disorder" and the program was carried out only when a reduced crowd made it certain that there would be no turbulent disturbance. Just how the prevention of a minor offense could in any way extenuate the commission of a major offense or mitigate the shamefulness of it is not apparent to right-minded persons.

The regard of these Floridans for a minor nicety will not be entered on the record for it will show simply that another human being has been done to death by lawlessness which was none the less a murder because many participated in it.

MADISON, WIS.
STATE JOURNAL

OCT 29 1934

Lynching Must Be Stopped

FLORIDA'S mob that lynched a negro with a stage setting vieing with the barbaric horrors of a Roman era have cast a blot on the nation that will, perhaps, arouse the public that lynching must not longer be permitted in this country.

The Florida lynching is no worse before the law than other similar incidents that have occurred in the southern states. The attendant features of invitations to the death agonies of the negro and the apparent approbation of a large number of people to the illegal tortures and execution mark it in such a manner that it cannot escape large public attention.

The negro is alleged to have confessed to a dastardly crime. A young woman's life was sacrificed through his lust. There was every prospect that he would be promptly punished by the courts of Florida. Capital punishment legally administered would have been his fate.

There was not even the excuse of a possible miscarriage of justice to warrant the murder by a mob.

The south has its negro problem. The people of that section of the country are largely responsible that there are many negroes whose mentality is of the lowest order. The dominant race in the south does not desire that the negroes shall be given an opportunity for improvement. They desire they shall remain a peon race. Under these conditions bestial crimes are certain to occur.

The southern whites have no right to take into their own hands the administration of punishment to what they deem a dependent people.

The negroes in the vicinity of Marianna where the lynching occurred are threatening a race war. Of course the colored people will not aid their situation by such a demonstration.

The state authorities of Florida should take a lesson from the rigorous prosecution that Gov. Albert C. Richie of Maryland instituted a few years ago when there was a lynching in that state. He did not allow so-called southern sentiment to interfere with the arrest and prosecution of the men who had taken the law into their own hands.

Thinking people in the south must head a movement that will demand strong official action not only to prevent lynchings but for the punishment of those responsible for them. Their blot on the civilization of the nation must not longer be allowed to remain. Lynchings are not only a black bar on our escutcheon but a return to barbarism by the people who participate in them that is a menace to our national civilization.

WASHINGTON, D. C.
POST

OCT 28 1934

Florida's Disgrace.

Although everybody in the community knew about it at noon, and although a crowd of several thousand had gathered by nightfall to watch the advertised lynching of a Negro at Greenwood, Fla., no public official in the whole State moved to prevent the atrocity. The fact that the "Committee of Six" could postpone the murder because the crowd grew too large, removes the only excuse the authorities could offer. Evidently, this was no uncontrollable mob, but an assemblage easily amenable to control.

Whatever the crime committed by this wretched man, and however flagrant his guilt, the stain on the community is not removed, but intensified, by this barbarous form of retribution. It is such flagrant lapses from civilized conduct which give substance to demands for the undesirable remedy of a Federal anti-lynching law.

Lynchings-1934
Discussions.

White Press, Northern.

4558

BUFFALO, N. Y.
COURIER EXPRESS

DEC 21 1934

MOB'S FURY

"There but for the grace of God, perhaps it is necessary for all of us to say with respect to the mobbers at Shelbyville, Tenn., "go we."

It is hard to understand such furious mob spirit, nevertheless. The object of the mobbers' wrath, a Negro, accused of assaulting a fourteen-year-old white girl, appears to have been in the hands of the constituted authorities of Bedford County. Nothing that the mob could do would make Bedford County safer for white women than the law was prepared to do. Mobs, however never reason. Given a leader who can set them on fire, and they are ready for any violence. They will take life or destroy property. The Shelbyville mob was like that. When the news came that the governor had ordered 500 National guardsmen to Shelbyville to keep order, the mobbers threw kerosene on the county courthouse, where the Negro was a prisoner, and set it on fire. What had been a $150,000 building was soon a heap of ruins. The guardsmen succeeded in carrying the Negro to Nashville. Two mobbers were killed and several others were wounded.

Shelbyville, viewing yesterday the scene of the madness of some hundreds of her people, realized, of course, that the mobbers had put her to shame before the whole nation. But what is Shelbyville going to do to make sure that she shall never again be so shamed?

Whoever knows the answer might tell us how nations themselves are going to keep their statesmen from going mad and resorting to war which is nothing more than mob law on a grand scale.

BRIDGEPORT, CONN
POST

DEC 20 1934

A Symbolic Lynching

The mob at Shelbyville, Tenn., which after having been baffled in its efforts to lynch a Negro, vented its wrath by burning down the courthouse, somehow managed to symbolize the true mob spirit. When a lynching party burns down a courthouse the transaction has been completed in the spirit of the mob. That is just what a mob stands for.

Probably no better picture of the inner workings of a lynching mob has ever been drawn, than by T. S. Stribling in his currently popular novel, "Unfinished Cathedral." It is just a question of ignorance, and so far as the people of Shelbyville or any similar city are concerned, the question before them is: "Do you want courthouses or do you want mobs?"

The Shelbyville mob which fired the courthouse as an expression of its wrath at the escape of its victim (and incidentally the killing of two of the would-be lynchers in an unsuccessful assault upon the troops) raised an issue which every thoughtful Southerner will be quick to appreciate. Those who join in the forces of the mob are stupid indeed if they do not realize that some day they themselves, or members of their own families, may be the victims of the same blind, vengeful spirit. "The machinery' of justice, administered through law, may not be perfect but such as it is, it is centuries ahead of mob justice and our society is founded upon the bedrock of law. Without it there is nothing left but anarchy.

The Shelbyville mob which couldn't lynch the Negro lynched the courthouse. Every lynching mob lynches the orderly processes of justice; this is the injury dealt to society which in its effect on generations present or future is far more important than the fate of an individual.

DAYTON, O.
JOURNAL

DEC 21 1934

THE TENNESSEE MOB.

VENGEANCE, not justice, is the dominant motive of any group which seeks to take the law into its own hands. Its actions become a travesty on justice, as a mob at Shelbyville, Tenn., has demonstrated again this week. Frustrated by the national guard in its effort to seize a prisoner who was about to be put on trial for a brutal crime, after a rioting which caused two deaths and left many others injured, its vengeful spirit turned against the constituted authorities of law and order. The courthouse was burned. The community was terrorized. The sheriff fled in fear that his own life would be jeopardized.

The tragedy of such a situation is that individual judgment and sanity become overwhelmed by hysteria. Probably no member of that mob seriously doubted that justice would be served through legal channels. But collectively, the members of this group were not content to wait. They were hysterical, as mobs of that sort always are. They were incapable of reason. They thought only of vengeance.

It seems unfortunate but true that the only authority which a mob will recognize is that of a superior or a better organized force. This Governor McAlister provided promptly by sending national guard units to the trouble center. The responsible citizens of Tennessee must applaud its action, however they may deplore its immediate effect in increasing the frenzy of the mob, and they must hope also, for the sake of the state's reputation, that further action will be taken to show that Tennessee will not tolerate lynch law.

EVANSVILLE, IND.
JOURNAL

DEC 20 1934

Revolt Against Official Restraint

Mob violence at Shelbyville, Tenn., starting with an impulse to lynch a Negro accused of a criminal attack upon a 14-year-old white girl, and ending with two dead, two seriously wounded and the court house in ruins, is one of the most violent outbreaks of its kind in recent history.

Citizens, infuriated to extreme acts of lawlessness, obviously engaged in armed and vicious revolt against official restraint, since the object of their first outbreak was removed when the Negro was spirited away to a strong place of safe-keeping before the deaths and fire occurred.

It is difficult to understand the psychology that could bring about such a demonstration. Men actually attacked troops armed with loaded rifles, bayonets and tear bombs. Many of them were barehanded, grasping clubs, wooden benches and other articles for weapons. The public building actually was their own possession and contained records that were very vital to most of them, protecting them in the possession of their property and establishing the rights to the very citizenship which they denounced and debauched.

Some months ago a certain governor complimented a mob for having lynched two suspects in a kidnaping. Apparently the governor of Tennessee does not see eye to eye with such a theory. He is inclined to see that law and order prevail. For that he is to be complimented.

It is to be sincerely hoped that the troubles at Shelbyville are over and that sanity has returned to stay. However, if such is not the case, the officials charged with the responsibility of seeing that the regulations of society are adhered to should feel that they have the moral support of the country as a whole.

ELMIRA, N. Y.
STAR GAZETTE

DEC 24 1934

OUTLINED AGAINST THE F

THE essential difference between and the individual is that the can be actuated by reason, but the mo actuated only by passion.

This was particularly true of the mo outbreak at Shelbyville, Tenn., in an effort to lynch a Negro facing trial on charge of attacking a white girl. Militia repulsed the enraged crowd, killing and wounding several. After the Negro had been spirited away and the guardsmen left, the mob burned the Court House.

The outbreak was primarily a protest against alleged failure of law, but there was no sense in burning the Court House after the prisoner had left. That is quite like kicking the stone against which you have stubbbed your toe, and is about as painful, for the taxpaying rioters must pay to rebuild the edifice.

If the incident has any place in our social structure, it is to outline clearly the antagonism of the law and mob rule. None can say, as is done in some cases of lynching, that the weakness of the law was involved. The burning of the Court House was simply the mob's way of showing an insane hostility to law.

If all America were looking, it might have seen the huge figure of an insensate monster outlined against the flames of the burning Court House.

The concern of thinking people is the effect upon American justice of extra-legal punishment. Of course Shelbyville was all stirred up, but picture for yourself the result if every community would resort to lynching whenever it was aroused. You will understand in a minute how the extension of the lynching idea would utterly destroy the law.

The killing of several persons by agents of the law in its defense may seem severe, but if our legal structure is worth anything it is worth even larger social sacrifice.

Seldom has there been a case in which the mob has been contrasted so plainly with the law as in the burning of the Shelbyville Court House.

TERRE HAUTE, IND
STAR

DEC 24 1934

THE SHELBYVILLE INCIDENT.

Comments on the burning of the court house by a mob at Shelbyville, Tenn., after it had been thwarted in an attempt to lynch a negro and the resultant death of four, have been as varied as they have been numerous. Deprecation has been the keynote of all and certainly such sentiment is appropriate. Some of the comments have been noteworthy.

As for example, "The mob was more logical than most mobs," says the Memphis Press-Scimitar. ". . . It did not burn the prisoner; it burned the court house. . . .

"A community where a mob rules has no need of a court house. What need has a mob for trial, the judge, the jury, the careful search for truth and justice which the court house stands for—the law?

"The young men of Shelbyville, Tenn., were not slain by the soldiers, who did their manly duty of upholding the law. They were slain by the mob, which forced the soldiers to resistance to lawlessness. If they were spectators, they were murdered; if they were part of the mob, they committed suicide."

One can agree wholeheartedly with the Press-Scimitar and still believe that the incident is not wholly without some satisfying aspects. Even with four slain and a court house destroyed by incendiarism, is there not something more gratifying in that horrible situation than there might have been in a situation wherein the sheriff had spinelessly let the mob get its desired victim—in other words, let the mob take the law in its own hands with the acquiescence of duly constituted authority?

It is an excellent example of officials refusing to abdicate from the position and responsibilities that society placed upon them. The mob is the very antithesis of everything upon which an orderly society rests. When the mob holds sway, there is a battering at the very foundations of civilization.

With this view, one can conceive that the principle involved should hold forth against the loss of even 40 lives instead of only four.

The example of the sheriff of Bedford county and the governor of Tennessee should boost the morale of the whole nation at a time when it is engaged in a campaign against crime and lawlessness. Against all odds let order prevail.

CLEVELAND, O.
PLAIN DEALER

DEC 21 1934

Cheer From Tennessee.

Sometimes the old gun kicks, injuring the marksman.

Tennessee offers a refreshing variation from the usual blood-lust mob story. The mob's intended victim is spirited away to safety. The defenders of law kill two and injure others of the mob gathered to commit murder.

National guardsmen were summoned on time. They knew what they were at the Shelbyville Court House for. They knew when and how to shoot. And isn't that the whole answer as to what can be done about lynching?

The Negro whose life the mob sought is accused of assault. He may be guilty, and may deserve death. While there is doubt on these points, no doubt at all exists that the mobsters were lawbreakers and were at the Court House intending to commit a capital crime. Presumption of innocence on the one hand; absolute and undeniable guilt on the other.

A cheering message, this, from Shelbyville. Hill McAlister, governor, is a credit to his state.

BALTIMORE, MD.
Sun

DEC 21 1934

CALDRON BUBBLE

If the mob which attacked and later burned the courthouse in Shelbyville, Tenn., had advanced shouting "Land, freedom and bread!" the nation would have been aroused to the incipient peril of revolution. However, since this storming of Shelbyville's bastile was inspired by disappointment at the mob's failure to seize and lynch a Negro who was being tried for criminal assault upon a young girl, conservative citizens will lose no sleep over the incident.

Nevertheless, in spite of the reasons for rage against the prisoner, who seemed in a fair way to be promptly convicted, this mob action is not insignificant. Mobs have attacked the outward and visible symbols of public authority before, but the burning of the Shelbyville courthouse seems to indicate a definite and deliberate contempt for all authority which is interposed between a mob and its victims. There is no indication that the processes of justice had failed. Innocent or guilty, the accused man was being tried in a court of law. The mob did not wait for the result of that process, but attempted to take the law into its own hands. The blazing courthouse suggests where the law stands down there. Shelbyville doesn't need a courthouse any more.

If anybody imagines that this kind of anarchy can safely be dismissed as trivial because it rises from the race problem, he is mistaken. The mob habit can respond to more than one stimulus, and communities where lynching and mob violence persist are the perfect culture medium for insurrection on a wider scale. The public authorities in Shelbyville, judge, sheriff and National Guardsmen, seem to have done their job with courage and dispatch. They protected the prisoner and only failed to save the courthouse because of a natural reluctance to kill their fellow-citizens. The incident remains, nevertheless, a blot on the escutcheon of a great State and a sinister premonitory shadow of what can happen when mobs—whatever their origin or excuse—raise passion and hate above restraint and reason.

WASHINGTON, D. C.
STAR

DEC 20 1934

Mob Violence at Its Worst.

The acme of the lynching evil was reached yesterday at Shelbyville, Tenn., when a mob undertook to seize and lynch a man on trial for his life for the crime of rape. There had been no delay in the prosecution. The trial started in the morning with the prospect of an early completion, within the day, with a verdict of guilty. There was no provocation on the ground of dilatory justice. The mob challenged the law. The challenge was accepted, troops were summoned, the court house was defended, the prisoner was taken away to a place of greater security, lives were lost in the melee and later in vengeance the mob burned the court house. A more shocking chapter of lawlessness has never been written in American history.

Mob violence is a crime, no matter what the cause of its incitement may be. It is possible to condone that crime when it is induced by rage against a failure of the law in the administration of justice. But only in extreme cases of flagrant failure, and then with fear lest the replacement of the law by an irresponsible crowd may breed unwarranted atrocities. When the mob demands the right of trial and execution in replacement of the court in the very act of functioning, with assurance of speedy justice, the climax of abomination is reached. When in its disappointment the mob destroys the very hall of justice it confesses its possession by a criminal impulse more shocking and more menacing than the crime that inflamed its passions.

PASSAIC, N. J.
NEWS

DEC 21 1934

The Outrage in Tennessee

TENNESSEE stands disgraced before the company of her sister commonwealths.

The mob at Shelbyville is responsible for this, not the State itself, which acted with commendable spirit.

When the Sheriff refused to deliver over a Negro prisoner to taste lynch law at their hands, the mob fought the authorities with the result that the company of a hundred militiamen who had escorted the accused from Nashville went into action and two persons were killed and nineteen wounded.

The soldiers spirited the prisoner away safely, back to Nashville, but the mob burned down the $150,000 Court House, set fire to a Negro hotel, forced the Sheriff and his family to flee for their lives, and actually kidnaped the Sheriff's brother who has not been seen since. The threat to destroy the County Jail fortunately was not made good.

Five hundreds troops moved in promptly, and "the situation is under control".

What an outrage this whole thing is!

The perpetrators of course regard themselves as 100 per cent. white Protestant American patriots! We regard them as scoundrels, the scum of the South.

Such incidents, of which there are all too many, invite the condemnation of the world. What right has America to point the finger when her own white trash carry ill-concealed prejudices and hatreds, ready to break out at a moment's notice.

Tennessee's mistake was in supposing that a mob would respect the presence of a mere hundred soldiers.

Lynchings - 1934
Discussions.

White Press, Northern.

4559

TORONTO, CAN.
GLOBE

DEC 21 1934

WHEN JUDGE LYNCH RULES.

"To have a Negro suddenly disappear never to return to his people seemed to them to be the best method of handlin' the niggers."

So concludes a white professor of a Southern university in reporting his findings after an investigation of the lynching on Oct. 26 last of Claude Neal at Marianna, Florida.

The Florida horror was attended by the usual mob violence. Neal had been arrested for the murder of Lola Cannidy, a white girl of 20. Feeling ran high, and Neal was put to death after being subjected to unspeakable torture.

So revolting were the details, and so shocked was the public mind in other parts of the United States, that a full inquiry was instituted by the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People.

The report of the investigator has been published with the hope that the abnormal cruelty of the killing might arouse thinking people of the nation to assist in the fight against lynching and to press for the enactment of a pending Federal anti-lynching bill.

From Shelbyville, Tennessee, now comes reports of racial disturbances which must deepen the national sense of shame. The underlying facts are not dissimilar to those of the Florida case. A young negro was taken into custody, charged with a crime against a white girl of 14 years. By a ruse the prisoner was removed, but in a collision between National Guardsmen and the mob two men were killed and several wounded. Cheated of its intended victim, the mob in its fury fired the Court House and destroyed other property, while colored residents cowered in shacks and cabins.

The report on the Florida tragedy points out that Neal was the 5,068th person lynched in the United States since 1882; and the forty-fifth mob victim since Mr. Franklin D. Roosevelt became President.

Mr. Roosevelt has given vigorous leadership in the war upon crime. Considerable has been achieved toward the checking of gangsterism, and at a conference within the last few weeks new plans of organization were laid. He has given assurances, too, that the full force of the White House power is to be employed in support of measures designed to restore to his country proper judicial functions instead of mob vengeance.

Speaking before the Federal Council of Churches of Christ in America about a year ago, Mr. Roosevelt denounced what he called "that vile form of collective murder—lynch aw." He spoke of the rise of a new "think-ng America" which

> seeks a Government of its own that will be sufficiently strong to protect the prisoner, and, at the same time, to crystallize a public opinion so clear that government of all kinds will be compelled to practice a more certain justice. The judicial function of the Government is the protection of the individual and of the community through quick and certain justice.

This function, the President said, had fallen into a sad state of disrepair, and it would be part of the Government's program to repair it.

Only those who know the temper of the South can be fully sensible of the tremendous task confronting those who would turn large numbers of people away from their misguided belief that lynch law is really the only instrument for "keeping the nigger in his place." On the psychological side, the considered judgments in the Florida case are interesting:

> (1) That the mob intended to lynch Claude Neal from the beginning; (2) that the nature of the press reports confirmed their intention; (3) that the statements occurring in the local press incited to lynching; (4) that the local officials and the Governor of the State must have been aware of the probability of lynching; and (5) that insufficient protection was given to the prisoner.

It is important that such facts should be brought out; but below them lie forces not easily gauged. For the report also finds that "the lynching was a surface eruption." Beneath the volcanic disturbance was "the pressing problem of jobs and bread and economic security. . . . The basic cause of the lynching was economic." As one observer put it to the investigating professor: "The nigger hasn't got no right to have a job when there are white men who can do the work and are out of work."

At the moment there is unusual discontent and distress in the South as elsewhere. The task of re-establishing through the courts the "quick and certain justice" of which Mr Roosevelt spoke will mean the surmounting of more than the ordinary obstacles.

The solving of the racial problem will call for patient and courageous endeavor, guided by the spirit of Christian fellowship. Various organizations are doing excellent work in presenting the facts in calm and detached fashion. More and more the public conscience is being aroused. There will be need for well-ordered measures of reform on both the political and the economic side before Judge Lynch is driven from his throne of sadism and cruelty.

CAMDEN, N. J.
COURIER

DEC 5 1934

AMERICA'S SHAME

It is about time the Federal Government acted in the Marianna, Fla., lynching.

For once, in the lynching of Claude Neal, the Fourteenth amendment ought to be used for its intended purpose instead of for protection of corporate privilege.

Certainly in this well planned and publicized lynching—a lynching that might easily have been prevented by Florida authorities—a man was deprived of his life "without due process of law" and denied "equal protection of the laws."

There are grounds aplenty under the Fourteenth amendment and under the Federal anti-kidnaping law for Federal action.

* * * * * *

Nothing in the annals of German, Italian and Balkan dictatorship is worse than the story revealed in the report on this lynching by the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People.

Nor is there any better indication of the ruling spirit in the South than the fact that a flood of protests to Governor Scholtz, of Florida, from prominent white Southern religious, women's and student groups have been ignored—

And that the Association is unable to divulge the name of the "young Southern white university professor" who made the report.

To do so, the Association declares in a letter to the press, "would seriously interfere with his great usefulness in the South and perhaps even might subject him to physical violence."

The lynching, this report shows, was a bestial festival announced in advance. Three persons told the investigator that an invitation to the lynching party was broadcast from the radio station at Dothan, Ala. Word was passed all over Northeastern Florida and Southeastern Alabama.

A member of the lynching party told the story of the torture that preceded the hanging. The details are too horrible to bear repetition in a newspaper. Later, "little children, some of them mere tots . . . waited with sharpened sticks for the return of Neal's body and . . . drove their weapons deep into the flesh of the dead man." Photographs were sold and fingers and toes cut off as souvenirs.

The day after the lynching a mob beat and drove Negroes out of Marianna, even searching homes in the residential district for colored maids. The one redeeming feature of the picture is the courage shown by many white men and women in holding off the mob and protecting their colored employes.

There can be no doubt that vigorous action by the Department of Justice against the leaders of the lynch mob would meet with applause throughout the South, where the crime has aroused widespread revulsion.

* * * * * *

But this report is not merely a horror story—a story unbelievable in 20th century America.

It also lays bare the distress and the economic conflict that lie behind much of interracial bitterness in the South.

"This lynching," one observer told the professor who wrote this report, "was a surface eruption. The basic cause of the lynching was economic. Here you put your finger on the sore spot. The lynching had two objects: First, to intimidate and threaten the white employers of Negro labor and, secondly, to scare and terrorize the Negroes so that they would leave the county and their jobs could be taken over by white men."

A bitter struggle for bread is the root of this outbreak of savagery.

Unfortunately certain features of the recovery program—the treatment of Southern share-croppers under the A.A.A. and the covert discriminations allowed in many of the N.R.A. codes—have intensified a situation bad enough under the normal conditions of poverty and illiteracy in many sections of the South.

New York Evening Post

DEC 21 1934

LYNCHING CAN BE STOPPED

The way to stop lynchings—is to stop them.

That is the moral of what happened Wednesday night at Shelbyville, Tenn.

It is not pleasant to think of American citizens being mowed down by machine guns. The necessity for such drastic measures is almost as disgraceful as the institution of lynching itself.

But the fact remains that recent lynch mobs in Maryland, California, Louisiana and Florida have carried out their intention—because the forces of law and order did not act.

In Florida, only a few weeks ago, the forces of the law, taking their cue from Governor Dave Sholtz, openly tolerated one of the most revolting lynchings in history—a sure method of breeding mob violence in the future.

The Shelbyville mob was thwarted chiefly because of the courageous attitude of Governor Hill McAlister, who apparently made up his mind to enforce the law at any cost.

If more Governors were willing to follow his example it would not take long to stamp out these revolting crimes. It would not be necessary for troops to fire on American citizens. Governor McAlister can thank Governor Sholtz, in part, for the troubles of Tennessee.

Few office holders in the South have been noted for such courage in similar circumstances.

The feeling has prevailed that a really firm stand against lynching would be political suicide. It is the POST's guess that this belief is mistaken. The majority of people in the South are just as opposed to lynching as those in the North.

Governor McAlister may find political rewards for the performance of his duty. Certainly he deserves them.

The handful of National Guardsmen also deserve credit. They kept their heads and their determination to protect the prisoner. They tried reasoning with the mob. When that failed they tried tear gas. When that failed, they used bullets.

The mob withdrew. To avoid bloodshed, the guardsmen spirited the Negro prisoner away in a soldier's uniform, his face covered by a gas mask. Then their work was done. They marched out of town in good order while mobsters pelted them with stones. The guardsmen made no effort to defend themselves or return the attack—**a magnificent exhibition of self-control and courage.**

* * *

After the guardsmen left, an event occurred which throws considerable light on the lynch spirit.

The mob deliberately burned the court house.

They knew the Negro and the guardsmen were gone. There was no conceivable purpose in this act of sheer vandalism. Doesn't this strengthen the contention that a part of the lynch psycholog is savage manifestation of the spirit of rowdyism?

Apologists for lynching are apt to over-rationalize it. They will tell about the great "dread" of the Negro which is supposed to exist in the South. They will discuss the inflammatory effect of dilatory trials and miscarriages of justice.

But how to rationalize the burning of the court house along those lines?

The mob was not revenging itself on the Negro. It was not harming the lawyers or the guardsmen. It was destroying county property which the members of the mob will have to pay to replace.

Further, every building in the town was endangered by the fire. The would-be lynchers might easily have burned down their own homes as a result of firing the court house.

The only explanation is that they were out to destroy. And when they were deprived of a human victim they built a big bonfire—the court house—instead.

When this aspect of the lynch motive is more clearly understood perhaps officials will be less likely to excuse and condone and let mobs have their way.

INDIANAPOLIS, IND.
STAR

DEC 21 1934

CAUSE OF LYNCHINGS.

he Editor of The Indianapolis Star:

Under the heading "Suppress Lynching" appeared an article in Views of Our Readers to which I wish to suggest a reply by putting a question. "Why does lynching occur?" Usually, lack of just and prompt punishment of the criminal. People fear the criminal will not get his just dues. If the people were sure that the criminal would be quickly and justly punished few lynchings, if any, would occur. The truth is that through the trickery of criminal lawyers, tolerated by judges who often turn a criminal loose on a mere technical error, it is almost impossible to convict a man for any offense.

Then again, if convicted, the criminal will appeal for a new trial and postpone justice, maybe several weeks, until sentiment somewhat cools and witnesses disappear. And again, when convicted of a capital offense for which the criminal should receive capital punishment, the Governor may postpone the execution for several months, as witness the execution of some of the Dillinger gang, postponed for months with parley for a new trial and chances of escape at the taxpayers' expense with the ultimate pardon of the Governor in the offing.

Convince the people that the criminal will be quickly and justly punished and you will rarely hear of a lynching. I think the judge or attorney who deliberately and knowingly assists the criminal to escape justice is just about as guilty as he is.

Another thing, this foolish sentiment of reforming criminals should be forgotten. The Governor should not have full pardoning power and his pardons should be signed first by some of those whom the criminal injured. This would, in a measure, control this free pardoning which often has a political background and lightens the effect of justice.

Brazil, Ind. JAMES T. LEE.

SUN
SPRINGFIELD, O.

DEC 27 1934

LYNCHING AND POLITICS

Editor of The Sun:

I returned recently from a sta of some months in Tennessee, in city near Shelbyville. Shelbyvill has achieved wide recognition during the past few days as the scen of a highly unusual occurrence The prevention of a lynching.

The candidate for victim of the lynching bee was a Negro accused of attack on a white girl. Negroes so accused in the South may anticipate with great confidence that, if caught, they will be promptly and illegally executed. Their guilt or lack of it is immaterial.

In a certain portion of the white population of the South, largely, I believe, people who are in economic conflict with the Negro, lynching Negroes accused of attack seems to be esteemed legitimate sport. Perhaps the lynchers, subconsciously, are much less concerned with erasing blots from the Caucasian 'scutcheon than with keeping their colored neighbors enough in dread of them to fear pressing the economic struggle too hard.

But in this instance, the several hundred whites assembled for their sport were effectively foiled by national guardsmen. Rescue of the Negro involved killing two whites and wounding two more so severely that they died later. That is nothing to complain of. Mobs out to commit capital crimes should be foiled, though forty of their members must be killed instead of four.

However, an interesting speculation arises. The guardsmen, of course, were brought to Shelbyville by order of the governor of Tennessee. His order is not likely to produce, in the minds of those participating in the mob, anything but discredit of him. Is it to be expected that the credit his action must have gained him in the minds of those aware of the desirability of preventing lynchings will out-balance the indignation of potential lynchers? That is, will human good prove serious political harm?

Governors are human; the statement carries great condemnation. But how refreshing, how possibly valuable, a spectacle it would be to see a politician make this noble experiment: Work consistently for right, in the courageous hope of being able to hold office through appreciative human intelligence instead of through flattered human prejudice.

W. R. MORRISON.

Springfield, O., Dec. 23.

PROVIDENCE, R. I.
BULLETIN

DEC 22 1934

COURAGEOUS GOVERNOR

Governor McAllister of Tennessee deserves the commendation of the nation for refusing to draw a line between a lawless mob bent on administering rough justice and lawless individuals.

When the mob spirit started to rise in Shelbyville, Tennessee, in anger against a Negro charged with assault upon a young white girl, and the lynch cry was heard throughout the surrounding territory, the Governor of Tennessee dispatched National Guards to the town to protect the prisoner. He was spirited away in disguise and will be punished, if proved guilty, by the proper authorities.

Lawlessness breeds lawlessness, and the mob robbed of its man turned its vindictiveness against authority as represented by the troopers and by the courthouse. The latter they burned down and the troopers they charged. They became so menacing that the National Guardsmen were forced to open fire, with the result that three people were killed.

It takes courage for a chief executive to stand up in defiance of a mob when the mob represents, as it too frequently does, popular sentiment. But it is only through such courage that the horrible and brutalizing crime of lynching will be eradicated from this land. If law-abiding people are to bend their energies and their resources to fight crime, as the recent conference has called upon them to do, then crime in whatever form must be downed, and that means mob crime. Riotous assemblies taking the law in their own hands are not to be countenanced in the United States.

Lynchings - 1934
&
Discussions.

White Press, Northern.

4560

BALLSTON SPA, N. Y.
JOURNAL

DEC 24 1934

JUDGE LYNCH OVERRULED IN TENNESSEE CASE

Determination of organized society in the United States to curb all forms of crime, including lynching, is vividly reflected in the otherwise appalling reports from Shelbyville, Tenn. The viciou temper of a mob cost at least two of its member their lives when National Guardsmen repulsed with bullets and bayonets an attack on the Bedford County Courthouse, where a young Negro was on trial.

Regrettable it may be that the soldiers found it necessary to shed blood to protect the defendant, who was whisked away by the law's forces before the angry crowd realized what had happened. But dispatches from the scene picture the disciplined forces as up against an unusually aggravated form of undisciplined violence. Thwarted in their attempt to seize their prey, members of the mob ater set fire to the courthouse and to troop trucks, and marauded about the town threatening entirely nnocent Negroes. Their behavior, like that of sc many lynching parties, was indicative not so much of desire for justice as for an outlet for all the base and violently aimless emotions which swarm around he appetite for revenge.

President Roosevelt's speech to the Crime Conference at Washington ten days ago called attenion to the need of copying with "horrifying lynchings," which, the President observed, were unfortunately "no longer confined to one section of the country." The Crime Conference, however, did not include this form of crime in its discussion. It might have done so with profit, for lynching is a subject on which some important popular misconceptions exist.

Basically, of course, the lynching disgrace arises out of something deeper than a racial problem. It is interesting that what is generally thought to be its chief cause is responsible for less than one-fourth of the lynchings in forty years. It is worthy of note that the proportion of lynchings is lower in the Black Belt, where Negroes constitute more than half the population, than in counties with only 25 per cent Negro population. And it is encouraging that in the last decade lynchings have declined markedly.

The gathering force of active public support for law and order, as well as the failure—with tragic results—of the lynching attempt at Shelbyville, encourages belief that crime, whether coolly premeditated and organized, or flaming out of the peat bogs of human resentment, is meeting an effective check.

HERKIMER, N. Y.
TELEGRAM

DEC 24 1934

Tennessee Thwarts a Mob

A welcome variation from the uniform rule of success attending lynching enterprises is reported from Shelbyville, Tenn. where, for a change, the forces of law presented a determined front, with the result that another mob murder was not added to the shameful record.

Customarily, the law enforcement agencies of states in which lynchings are common merely go through the motions of opposition when the crowds, usually inspired by a liberal indulgence in corn liquor, gather around the jail, demand their victim, take him to the outskirts, kill him and burn his body.

As a rule, the sheriffs and deputies, charged with responsibility for the safe custody of the prisoner, attempt the fulfilment of their duties only in the most perfunctory fashion. As a result of their feeble resistance, another murder is staged.

At Shelbyville, however, something in the nature of an awakened official conscience was encountered. An attempt to storm the court house was repulsed by a withering fire from the machine guns of national guardsmen. Terror reigned, the ancient court house was destroyed by fire and frenzied men terrorized the negro sections of the city.

But the prisoner was guarded and removed to Nashville, where he will be held to await trial in accordance with the due processes of law. Tennessee has reason for pride in the sternness and effectiveness with which she met a serious threat against her honor as a state.

ST. LOUIS, MO.
GLOBE DEMOCRAT

DEC 21 1934

TENNESSEE'S TRIUMPH OF LAW.

The wildest day in all the United States Wednesay was at Shelbyville, a town of 5010 people in ennessee, with the holiday season already beginning. Through many trying hours there the Tenessee authorities gave an almost faultless exhibit f bravery and perseverance in upholding the lawful nd battling against the lawless.

In a threatening outlook 110 National Guard nen were already on duty in the town when E. K. Harris, a colored man, was placed on trial there at a. m. for an assault. Resistance and affront were lmost immediately offered the guardsmen by riotous men. By 11:45 a. m. a mob estimated at 1000 vas stoning the citizen soldiery and was held off with bayonets and tear gas until 2:12 p. m. when violent fighting again took place, which was reewed an hour later.

With his courthouse under a tumultuous siege udge Coleman continued on the bench calmly preding over the trial preliminaries, but at 3 o'clock, with the jury complete, he very properly suspended rocedure and declared a mistrial. The Federal Supreme Court in the Scottsboro case from Alabama eclared that a trial result reached under such circumstances of intimidation is not a result in conformity with due process of law. The defendant, isguised in a National Guard uniform, was taken hrough the unsuspecting mobsters to an automobile nd, not escaping final hostile demonstrations, was ushed to Nashville.

The baffled rioters expended their wrath in burnrg four trucks in which the military had been brought to town and in plans to blow up the jail nd city waterworks, necessitating further defensive neasures. When darkness came, however, Shelbyville and part of Bedford County were lighted up from the courthouse square. In a part of the building where it was not discovered until too late, rioters had renewed attempts to set fire to the courthouse nd the $150,000 structure, one of the South's historic monuments, was destroyed.

With the soldiery reinforced by a stern Governor, much sobered Shelbyville in the cold hours of the Thursday afterward was counting the cost of its outbreak of mob spirit. Aside from a large property loss it included the death of two of its rioting residents and the wounding of 18 or 20 more, several of whom have fatal injuries, and association, until the odium can be lived down, in the minds of 125,000,000 people with a spectacular act of major barbarity.

It is a heavy price, but will any lynching bee form again in Shelbyville very soon, or at least as long as Sheriff T. E. Gant continues in office? Will one form anywhere in Tennessee under the present Governor? That antilynching commission with headquarters in Chattanooga must be doing a consummate work in ending the stigma of our greatest national disgrace.

SBURY PARK, N. J.
PRESS
DEC 21 1934

LAW SUPREME IN TENNESSEE

Out of the fury of the mob that ran wild at Shelbyville, Tenn., Wednesday emerged a hopeful sign. Governor Hill McAllister, the sheriff, and members of the national guard upheld the law. Putting their responsibility above prejudice, they threw back the maniacal horde that sought to lynch a colored man who had been put on trial and preserved the sovereignty of the state.

In this state there would be nothing worthy of comment in such a situation. Mob riots are not common; their power not appreciated. But in Tennessee it is far from an easy task to subdue a gang of lynch-crazed citizens. How wild they run is demonstrated by the fact that after failing to capture their intended victim, who was spirited out of the court room in the clothes of a national guardsman, his hands covered with gloves and his face with a gas mask, they threatened to lynch the sheriff.

A similiar episode in California recently resulted in the lynching of two men and a word of praise for the mob from the late Governor Rolfe. It would seem from his comment that even the most elemental concepts of justice had been scrapped and that hereafter mob rule would be a common practice.

The governor of Tennessee, however, has shown greater wisdom. He quelled the mob and saved its intended victim for the courts. Unfortunately, two of the lynch party were killed in the scuffle, but even tho unintentionally, they were martyrs to an example of the supremacy of the law. Hereafter there will be less haste in storming the court houses of Tennessee in an effort to reduce justice to the low level of a blood-thirsty gang of lawbreakers.

SCHENECTADY, N. Y.
UNION STAR
DEC 24 1934

A Costly Lesson

BOTH NORTH AND South, papers agree that the public authorities in Tennessee acted with courage and dispatch when the Shelbyville mob undertook to take government into its own hands. It cost four lives, but the lesson will be worth it if it lessens subsequent outbreaks of this sort of mob emotionalism.

Some of the most severe strictures against the mob outbreak are found in southern papers. The Baltimore Sun, denouncing in scathing terms the outbreak, goes on to say:

> The burning of the Shelbyville courthouse seems to indicate a definite and deliberate contempt for all authority which is interposed between a mob and its victims.
>
> There is no indication that the processes of justice had failed. Innocent or guilty, the accused man was being tried in a court of law. The mob did not wait for the result of that process, but attempted to take the law into its own hands.
>
> The blazing courthouse suggests where the law stands down there. Shelbyville doesn't need a courthouse any more.

Coming at a time when the government of the United States is making a determined fight against law-breaking of all kinds, and after the specific words of the President denouncing mobs and lynchings, the affair at Shelbyville is the more noticeable. It seems, in fact, to be defiance to the government itself.

To attribute all lynchings and all mobs in the South to sectional emotionalism rooted in racial differences never has impressed those who live in other parts of the country. In the cold light of day, it seems more like plain lawlessness and off the same piece with gangster intimidations in the North. "The fair name of womanhood" is so much hooey when a bloodthristy mob gets loose. Mobs' acts in any part of the country are essentially at variance with the processes of law. They may rise from any cause. Continues Baltimore Sun:

> If anybody imagines that this kind of anarchy can safely be dismissed as trival because it rises from the race problem, he is mistaken. The mob habit can respond to more than one stimulus, and communities where lynching and mob violence persist are the perfect culture medium for insurrection on a wider scale.

The outbreak of mob rule in Shelbyville was costly. It price was four lives and the desstruction of the court house. It is likely to cost Governor McAllister re-election. Summary action in a lynching case cost Governor Ritchie of Maryland his re-election. A man who would rather be right than be governor has to make a quick decision sometimes. It is to the credit of these two southern governors that they did not hesitate to act; it is to the discredit of Maryland that it so ill requited Governor Ritchie's courageous act. We shall wait to see what Tennessee does with its law-enforcing Governor.

DETROIT, MICH.
NEWS
DEC 21 1934

The Court House Was Lynched.

The Tennessee mob of would-be lynchers, who burned down a $150,000 court house in their rage over being cheated of an intended victim, neatly illustrated the insanity which inspires lynching.

The mob consisted mostly of citizens of the county, taxpayers and part-owners of the $150,000 court house. As members of the insane mob, these taxpaying citizens ceased to regard themselves as part-owners of the building and saw it, not as their own property, but as something that had come between them and the satisfaction of an animal thirst for vengeance.

So they burned the court house, and now may worry about paying the taxes to rebuild it.

However, it was not merely the court house on which these citizens concentrated their fury. The court house merely was the symbol of Government, which was the real object of their rage. As members of the mob, these citizens forgot that this Government, with its police, its courts and its duly appointed executioners, was not something other than themselves, but actually was themselves.

So when they destroyed the court house they were assaulting, not exactly themselves, it is true, but their own Government, which they and their forefathers had built up, so laboriously and painstakingly, to provide for offenders a relentless but cool and unerring justice.

The court house, unhappily for the effectiveness of this Tennessee lesson, can be rebuilt with tax funds. The damage done by lynch mobs to the institution of Government by common consent can not be so easily repaired.

MADISON, WIS.
STATE JOURNAL
DEC 21 1934

Must Educate Against Lynchings

THREE DEAD and six wounded at Shelbyville, Tennessee, in a riot arising over a determined effort to lynch a negro on trial for attacking a woman is a tragedy that should impress upon the south that lynchings must pass into history and that an overwhelming sentiment is arising in this country against these blots on the nation's escutcheon.

Governor Hill McAlister of Tennessee is to be commended for ordering the militia to Shelbyville to protect the negro prisoner. The efforts of the Tennessee national guard were successful but they were at the expense of death and ruin. The court house at Shelbyville was burned by the rioters with a financial loss of $150,000. The firing of the court house was but an insane act on the part of the mob maddened because its negro prey had been snatched from the death they wished to mete out to him.

But for the presence of the militia a race war might have been precipitated in Shelbyville. The excited rioters when they discovered that the negro whom they sought was beyond their reach were so crazed as to be willing to resort to any extremity and would not listen to reason.

Public sentiment in the south should support Governor McAlister. The negro is in th south because he was brought there to work fo the forefathers and their kin in other state below the Mason and Dixon line, of the me who composed the mob. The south still desire the labor of the negro. The lynchings ar largely begotten by a sentiment for the maintenance of white race superiority. They ar in a way a legacy from slavery days. The mobsters who participate in them believe they are a part of a program that will keep the negro "in his place".

The idea is a mistaken one. The whites o the south who advocate mob violence toward the negro are the people who desire that negro labor shall be retained in the southern states. They want the benefit of the negro's work but they are unwilling that he should have the rights that are his through citizenship of a trial by jury on criminal charges. The mobbists abrogate to themselves the authority to punish without a trial.

This attitude will sooner or later bring on race wars of magnitude. The negroes deem the lynchings an attempted oppression of their race.

The south for its own protection must do away with lynchings. Laying aside the moral wrong that residents of other states see in the usurping by mobs of the power of the law, the white residents of the south if they are to live in peace beside their colored neighbors must recognize that the negroes are citizens and are entitled to citizenship privileges. We believe that a majority of the thinking people of the south have come to this view. It is their duty to educate their neighbors to the same idea.

The Shelbyville tragedy will attract attention all over the nation. It will receive editorial comment. Then it will be forgotten, until other incidents of similar character occur, unless leading people in the south at once begin a campaign against lynching outrages.

Lynchings 1934
Discussions.

White Press, Northern.

4561

BOSTON, MASS.
Christian Science Monitor

DEC 20 1934

Judge Lynch Overruled

DETERMINATION of organized society in the United States to curb all forms of crime, including lynching, is vividly reflected in the otherwise appalling reports from Shelbyville, Tenn. The vicious temper of a mob cost at least two of its members their lives when National Guardsmen repulsed with bullets and bayonets an attack on the Bedford County Courthouse, where a young Negro was on trial.

Regrettable it may be that the soldiers found it necessary to shed blood to protect the defendant, who was whisked away by the law's forces before the angry crowd realized what had happened. But dispatches from the scene picture the disciplined forces as up against an unusually aggravated form of undisciplined violence. Thwarted in their attempt to seize their prey, members of the mob later set fire to the courthouse and to troop trucks, and marauded about the town threatening entirely innocent Negroes. Their behavior, like that of so many lynching parties, was indicative not so much of desire for justice as for an outlet for all the base and violently aimless emotions which swarm around the appetite for revenge.

President Roosevelt's speech to the Crime Conference at Washington ten days ago called attention to the need of coping with "horrifying lynchings," which, the President observed, were unfortunately "no longer confined to one section of the country." The Crime Conference, however, did not include this form of crime in its discussion. It might have done so with profit, for lynching is a subject on which some important popular misconceptions exist.

Basically, of course, the lynching disgrace arises out of something deeper than a racial problem. It is interesting that what is generally thought to be its chief cause is responsible for less than one-fourth of the lynchings in forty years. It is worthy of note that the proportion of lynchings is lower in the Black Belt, where Negroes constitute more than half the population, than in counties with only 25 per cent Negro population. And it is encouraging that in the last decade lynching has declined markedly.

The gathering force of active public support for law and order, as well as the failure—with tragic results—of the lynching attempt at Shelbyville, encourages belief that crime, whether coolly premeditated and organized, or flaming out of the peat bogs of human resentment, is meeting an effective check

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ONEONTA, N. Y.
STAR

DEC 22 1934

The Shelbyville Lynching

(New York Times)

All the more deplorable and discouraging must appear the latest attempt to lynch a prisoner for coming so soon after President Roosevelt's appeal to the nation to rally every energy against the prevalence of crime. Bar associations, together with various committees and agencies formed to deal with the subject, have at the same time appealed to the American people to start a "revolt" against crime in the United States. What they seem to have had chiefly in mind is banditry, along with kidnaping and racketeering attended by murderous violence. They were thinking mainly of our bad reputation for tolerating the gunman and the thug. But behind all these criminal activities there lies the spirit of lawlessness in general. Even ordinarily respectable citizens seem at times to catch the madness of trying to take the law into their own hands. This appears to have been the roots of the mischief in the case of members of the mob in the Tennessee town. There is no need to dwell upon the repulsive details of the affair. Nor is there fit occasion to hold up these rioters as sinners above all that inhabit this land. The thing might have have happened anywhere, in any state, South or North. It is only one more example of what has become a national shame and curse.

Perhaps the rioters were led on by the belief that it was perfectly safe for them to demand that the sheriff turn over to them a man in jail whom they were resolved to execute. Too often it has happened in various parts of the country that a mob in such cases finds it easy to have its way. Only a feeble pretense is made of really protecting a criminal already in the hands of justice. Protests and appeals to the ringleaders to let the law have its course are made, but too often the mob feels that all this can be brushed aside as of no account. They think of themselves as representing popular sentiment, and scout the idea that the authorities will resolutely withstand them by the use of force. At Shelbyville this process was reversed. The prisoner was not delivered up, but was got out of town by a ruse while the desperate attacks of the rioters were met by militiamen who, in self-defense, killed two of the members of the mob.

This should have a deterrent effect in other places where the mob spirit is apt to be roused. The conviction will spread that it is not a mere holiday affair to march upon a jail and demand that a certain prisoner or prisoners, be turned over to the rioters to wreak their will. If force is to be met by force, the story will seem to be different. The authorities are under a sworn duty to protect men caught in the net of the law, and, if they are to do it at all, ought to use the utmost vigor that may be necessary. The governor of Tennessee acted upon the assumption that he could not allow the peace and dignity of the state to be affronted by a mob outbreak, and at once ordered sufficient troops to the scene to assure law and order and to disperse the rioters. Many of the latter are reported to have fled from the scene when they found that violence was not to be wholly on their side.

So there may come something good out of this evil thing. Men of anti-social instincts and unbridled passions may be partly restrained. The officials set for the enforcement of the law may acquire a new determination to defy and resist mob demands. But we shall not put an end to this national reproach until, by education, by political action, by using means to secure swifter and more equal justice, we have done much more than we have to extirpate and punish with due severity all forms of lawlessness.

OROVILLE, CALIF.
Mercury

DEC 21 1934

Most Unusual News

Most unusual is the news from Tennessee that state troops sent to protect a Negro who had attacked a white girl fired upon a mob killing four men. An unusual feature lies further back, in that a southern governor sent troops to protect the Negro and meant what he said.

The South too long has relied upon lynchings. But what has brought the change? Will the governor survive the incident, or will it be demonstrated to be bad politics?

The temper of the mob was most bitter. Doubtless the bitterness was fostered by amazement that a governor should dare to thwart a southern mob in performing its "time-honored duty." We shall watch the politics of Tennessee to see what effect this incident will have at the next election.

LINCOLN, NEB.
EVENING STATE JOURNAL

DEC 20 1934

LAWLESSNESS.

Down in Tennessee a Negro was charged with committing a serious offense. His offense was of that nature that arouses southerners to the point of seeing red. The law had gone into action quickly. The Negro was arrested and held for trial. Trial of a Negro, accused of such a crime, in that region was almost certain to result in conviction if evidence pointed to his guilt. It seemed that the law might be relied upon in that instance to protect society by restraining the offender from further law violations and by warning others of the fate that awaits violators of the law.

The people of the community were not satisfied to let the law take its course. Public clamor was for vengeance, for immediate punishment by an illegal method. Law might be depended upon for results but it was too slow, too liable to listen to reason and to be influenced by evidence. A lynching party was formed. The officers of the law protected the prisoner. He was spirited away. Then the mob, made up of citizens and taxpayers of the county and town, burned their own court house. The militia was called out. There was a clash between representatives of law and representatives of hot-headed, unreasoning citizens. Death, serious injuries, and the beginnings of many future troubles was the result. And the injury caused by the crime has not been cured.

People are prone to scoff at the forces of the law, to criticize administration of government, to take government out of the hands of administrators they have chosen themselves, when emergencies arise that cause the blood to boil. When they do a sorry mess results. There followed, however, heartaches and anguish, community division, financial loss to those who took part in the trouble and to those who did not. Some criminals are held in jails. Other criminals storm jails in an effort to get them out and to lynch them.

New York Herald-Tribune

DEC 22 1934

There Was No Lynching

The moral courage of the Tennessee National Guardsmen who did not hesitate to shoot to kill in beating off the mob at Shelbyville is a tribute to the earnestness with which Southern communities are themselves fighting the tragedy and disgrace of lynch law. The first way in which to stop lynching is to stop the lynchers; and the best way of doing that is to make the "lynching bee" a thoroughly dangerous pastime.

In communities where the lynching tradition is ingrained this is not so easy as it sounds. Dr. Arthur Raper quotes the public protest signed by forty white women of a small Texas town two or three years ago when the Governor sent a detachment of Rangers there under strict orders to prevent mob violence: "Big newspaper display of your instructions to Texas Rangers to kill our fathers, husbands and brothers in order to protect confessed Negro rapist and murderer . . . horrified us." It is a psychology which helps to explain why, although many lynchings have been prevented by a show of force, it is a rare occurrence for a determined mob to be beaten back and rarer yet for participants in such mobs to run any personal risk. This time four men have paid with their lives for their enthusiasm for lynch law, and five others have been badly hurt. The National Guard commander reported yesterday that there was "absolutely no indication" of any further violence. One suspects that there will be fewer indications of that kind in Tennessee in the future.

This is not, of course, the final answer to the lynching problem. Forcible prevention of mob violence sometimes serves only to transfer the lynching from the fields to the courtroom, and one remembers that the defendants in the Scottsboro case were originally saved from a lynching by the National Guard. There is no final answer to the lynching problem except the long, slow process of improvement in legal, economic and social standards. But in that evolution swift and drastic action like that of the National Guard at Shelbyville should prove of powerful assistance. Tennessee is to be congratulated.

ALBANY, N. Y.
NEWS

DEC 24 1934

Outlined Against the Flames

THE essential difference between the mob and the individual is that the individual can be actuated by reason, but the mob is actuated only by passion.

This was particularly true of the mob outbreak at Shelbyville, Tenn., in an effort to lynch a Negro facing trial on charge of attacking a white girl. Militia repulsed the enraged crowd, killing and wounding several. After the Negro had been spirited away and the guardsmen left, the mob burned the Court House.

The outbreak was primarily a protest against alleged failure of law, but there was no sense in burning the Court House after the prisoner had left. That is quite like kicking the stone against which you have stubbed your toe, and is about as painful, for the taxpaying rioters must pay to rebuild the edifice.

If the incident has any place in our social structure, it is to outline clearly the antagonism of the law and mob rule. None can say, as is done in some cases of lynching, that the weakness of the law was involved. The burning of the Court House was simply the mob's way of showing an insane hostility to law.

If all America were looking, it might have seen the huge figure of an insensate monster outlined against the flames of the burning Court House.

The concern of thinking people is the effect upon American justice of extra-legal punishment. Of course Shelbyville was all stirred up, but picture for yourself the result if every community would resort to lynching whenever it was aroused. You will understand in a minute how the extension of the lynching idea would utterly destroy the law.

The killing of several persons by agents of the law in its defense may seem severe, but if our legal structure is worth anything it is worth even larger social sacrifice.

Seldom has there been a case in which the mob has been contrasted so plainly with the law as in the burning of the Shelbyville Court House.

LOWELL, MASS.
EVENING LEADER

DEC 21 1934

To an attempt to lynch a Negro charged with assault on a young white girl a mob in Tennessee added the destruction of the courthouse by fire. The lynching plot failed. But the county suffers a serious loss of property. The shooting by National Guard troopers of two members of the mob was one of the tragic incidents of the affair. But there seems to be no doubt that the calling out of the troops was justified under the circumstances. And those who resort to violence against the law take the risk of such reprisals. This was another case in which passion ruled over reason. For there is no cause to believe that the authorities were not to be trusted to deal justly with the prisoner.

ST. LOUIS, MO.
STAR TIMES

DEC 21 1934

MOB RULE.

Burning of the courthouse at Shelbyville, Tenn., by a maddened mob bent on lynching, with its two dead and nineteen injured in the clash with state militia, will be cited north, east and west as an example of lawlessness in the South and the innate backwardness of that region. What kind of citation do St. Louis and Missouri deserve for the more than $3,000 property damage and jeopardy of human lives by a bomb explosion early yesterday in one of the city's finest residence streets in a labor dispute?

The Tennessee riot occurred in a small town where there was inadequate local police and the forces of destruction were heroically faced by troops under a state officer determined to do his duty. Under that protection the Negro whom the mob was after was spirited away. What kind of law and order shall it be labeled in St. Louis, a great metropolitan center with more than a thousand police, a detective force organized to ferret out crime, a city with hundreds of churches, two great universities, and all the other elements that go to make up urban culture and civilization?

In this comparison between the Tennessee mob outbreak and the bombing of a St. Louis home the credit, it would seem, should go to the officials of Shelbyville and Tennessee. The contrast in their favor is even greater when it is recalled that the bombing here was the second in a week involving the same labor dispute, and the latest in a series of bombings in labor ructions, in city and county, with almost no arrests and nobody brought to justice.

There is lawlessness in the United States, north, east, south and west. This is no defense of what occurs in the South. But there is this to be said for mob lawlessness there. It is not deliberate, but a combination of race prejudice and inflammable temper, engendered by leaders with a deluded notion that mob violence can keep the white blood pure. In St. Louis crimes like this Longfellow boulevard bombing, gangsterism and racketeering, are coolly plotted. They are typical of most large cities north of the old Mason and Dixon line, and nowhere, in any of them, do bombings meet with less punishment than they do right here.

Tennessee officials, and the officials at Shelbyville, met mob violence promptly and courageously. St. Louis, whose police are under control of the state, needs some of that same efficiency and vigor.

WASHINGTON, D. C.
POST

DEC 21 1934

Impeachment Of Judge Lynch.

Two dead, half-a-dozen wounded and the destruction of a $150,000 courthouse. Such was the price paid for the prevention of a lynching in Shelbyville, Tenn. That price, if it helps to stop this cowardly and barbaric practice, is not necessarily exorbitant.

National Guardsmen successfully whisked away a Negro accused of attacking a young white girl and stood their ground when a rapacious mob, robbed of its prey, rushed the courthouse. Tear gas not availing, bayonets and finally bullets were called into action with the above horrible results. Late reports indicate that the blood-letting has greatly calmed the temper of the community.

The sordid episode again calls attention to the sentiments expressed by the organization of Southern Women for the Prevention of Lynching, which claims to represent a membership of a million. That association will be remembered as the group which last year declared that lynchers have no commission to protect the virtue and honor of its members, thereby repudiating the traditional plea of extenuation and condemning its hypocrisy.

These women, who may be taken as representative of the finest citizenry of the South, are on record as condemning the lack of equal educational opportunity for Negroes and urging action to eliminate constant inter-racial friction. Lynching, the association describes as "the logical result" of racial oppression, coupled with the exploitation and intimidation of a weaker element for economic gain.

Whether or not such valid generalizations apply to the Shelbyville case is not reported. It may be assumed they were at least contributory. The important point is that 500 temporarily deranged men were there prevented from taking the law into their own savage hands. The impeachment of Judge Lynch and the maintenance of constitutional procedure, at whatever cost to rioters, is a welcome contrast to the customary course of lynchings.

Lynchings – 1934
& Discussions.

White Press, Northern.

4518

COLUMBUS, O.
CITIZEN
FEB 9 1934

"LYNCHING" IS TOPIC FOR WOMEN'S CLUB

Part of Lincoln Day Program Monday Night.

A round table discussion on "Lynching" will be conducted by the business and professional women's council of the Blue Triangle Y. W. C. A. at 8 p. m. Monday in celebration of Lincoln's birthday. The meeting will be held in St. Paul's A. M. E. Church.

Dr. C. C. North, Department of Sociology at Ohio State, will conduct the table. Speakers will include Mrs. Ruth M. Worrell of the Y. W. C. A. interracial committee; Dr. B. W. Abramson, interracial committee of the Columbus Urban League; Mrs. Carrie A. Miller, president of the Business and Professional Women's Council; Dr. J. F. Williams, pastor of St. Paul's Chucrh.

Others who will participate are Wilbur E. King, Dr. E. A. Calloway, Baker C. Cunningham, Hunter Hopson, Mrs. Anna B. Jones, president the original Business Women's Club; Dr. N. L. Scarborough, president of Ministerial Alliance, and Mrs. Mary Carroll, president City Federation of Colored Women's Clubs.

MERCURY-REGISTER
OROVILLE, CALIF.
JAN 29 1934

Lynch Law Or Enforcement

Lecturing a drunken driver last week Oroville's police judge declared that "some day the public in its wrath is going to rise up and string some of you drivers to trees, and it will be a good thing."

Now we don't believe in lynch law and we think that when courts voice such sentiments it is time to look at the issue from all angles.

Our laws are adequate to handle drunk drivers if we apply them properly. Under Section 112 of the state motor vehicle act, such a driver, when found guilty can be sent to the county jail for from 90 days to one year or to a state prison for from one to three years, or he can be fined from $200 to $5000 with license revoked. In such cases the jury recommends the penalty, and the trial is in superior court.

Under the penal code, Section 367-D, driving an automobile while under the influence of intoxicating liquor is declared a misdemeanor and the penalty is a fine of from $1 to $500 and/or a jail sentence of from one day to six months in jail. The court fixes the penalty and the trial is in inferior courts.

Under 367-E, penal code, where the driver injures or kills a person, the penalty is a term in state prison for not over five years or in the county jail for not over one year or a fine not exceeding $500 or both.

But nine-tenths of the cases are tried under section 121 of the California motor vehicle act which covers only reckless driving, declares a misdemeanor, and fixes a penalty of not less than five days in the county jail nor more than 90 days and/or a fine of from $25 to $250, and these cases are tried in the inferior courts.

Why are nine-tenths of the cases tried under Section 121 in the justice and police courts? There are many reasons. One is that an officer can say to the prisoner: "We are going to try you for drunken driving, which is a felony, with a likely state prison term, but if you will plead guilty to reckless driving we'll reduce the charge and you will get off with a fine."

The prisoner will then consent to plead guilty, a trial is avoided and time and effort are saved.

Another reason why such cases are taken into the local police court on misdemeanor charges is that in such cases the fines go into the city treasury, and police officers always think of that.

Yet another reason, and one that frequently controls, is that the peace officer is afraid he cannot convict and would rather run a bluff on the prisoner and get him to plead guilty than take a chance with a superior court trial. Often the reason why his case is weak is that the physician called in on the case is unwilling to say that the driver is drunk, although physicians have been known later to make the statement that the man was undoubtedly drunk. A stiffer attitude on the part of the physicians would help the peace officers.

And we may as well admit that there is another reason, sometimes, why drunk drivers get off with misdemeanor instead of felony charges.

When influential friends go to the front for them it takes a pretty determined officer to stand up and say, "No, gentlemen, the man was drunk, and it's a felony case." He is inclined to take the easy way out, for after all an unpopular officer doesn't stay long on the force.

There, we believe, are the reasons why drunk drivers are increasing, and why they get off easily despite the repeated requests from the state department of motor vehicles that the state officers enforce the law strictly.

What is the answer? We have sent the reporters out to our three judges, Inspector Joe Cooper of the state police, our district attorney and to the peace officers. Watch for the interviews. Maybe their answers will help to establish a local policy so that lynch law may never be resorted to in Oroville.

WILLIAMSPORT, PA.
SUN
JUN 22 1934

A FORGOTTEN BILL

A Texas mob, including men and women, seized from the custody of police officers a young Negro accused of immorality involving a white woman, but not involved in any crime of violence such as usually figures in such cases, hanged him, riddled his body with bullets and dragged it for miles behind an automobile. Here was a glaring case of race prejudice at its worst. It is significant to note that it occurred so soon after adjournment of Congress had left on the uncompleted list of legislation another federal "anti-lynching bill."

Lost in the shuffle, probably through the machinations of its opponents, was a measure which, through provision of penalties for officials who fail to protect prisoners in their custody and the fixing of punitive damages against counties in which lynchings occur, was designed to prevent lynchings under just such circumstances as this.

"This Day and Age" Is Movie Which Puts Seal of Approval on Lynching

Reviewed by ANN BURLAK

"A Great Historic Epoch"; "A Masterpiece surpassing the Sign of the Cross, the Birth of a Nation and other great pictures produced by Cecil de Mille, as only he can produce them." Thus was his newest creation, "This Day and Age" heralded upon the American movie-going public.

Daily Worker

Actually the picture is a mobilization film for more lynchings as the only way to cope with "crime." Of course a Negro worker does not need to be guilty of a crime to be a lynch victim; it is enough that some white lyncher accuse him of some crime.

2-20-34

This picture portrays the city officials developing patriotism among high school students by appointing certain students as public officers for a period, chief of police, prosecuting attorney, etc. It depicts corrupt local politicians who free known gangsters because of political pull.

The high school boys in good old patriotic style, whistling "Yankee Doodle," organize a large mob of students and administer justice by taking the gangster to an old forsaken brick yard and hanging him with a rope until he confesses that it was he who killed a certain tailor. His men arrive on the scene to save the gangster, police arrive simultaneously and capture the criminals. The boys are highly praised for their effective method in dealing with criminals.

The picture ends with the boys marching through the streets en masse carrying their victim chained to a log pole, on the way to the jail house, where the court will finish their lynch orgy. All this mob spirit is played up with the greatest amount of flag raising, singing of patriotic airs, and other forms of expressing patriotism. Just such "patriotic" expressions accompany lynch orgies of innocent Negro workers.

Workers and workers' organizations should arouse the greatest amount of mass protest and agitation against such pictures, whenever they are shown in the theaters in your neighborhood. Organize protests of white and Negro workers around the theaters whenever this lynch picture is shown. Demand that your local theater cancel the showing.

Literary Digest N.Y.

FEB 3 1934

The Lynching Evil—Readers' Replies

Acknowledgment is made here of letters to THE LITERARY DIGEST on the article, "The Lynching Evil and Church Responsibility," in the issue of December 23, 1933.

A. Landon Prater, of Dallas, Texas, denies Mr. Mackreth's statement that "a large part of the responsibility for mob murder rests upon the churches." In 99 44/100 per cent. of lynchings, Mr. Prater writes, "it is the culmination of an attack by a black upon a white woman. Public mass meetings, the instilling of reverence by the preacher, the threat of the mob will not deter lynchings as long as the black tries to appease his bestial desires by rape."

The article "is of grave and arresting interest," writes Mrs. Samuel Gaillard Stoney, Charleston, S. C., "but the omission of the five New England States from the list of those guilty of lynching requires further explanation. When it is considered with what unique and sacred event the list opens, it would appear that even the New England States might be guilty under such construction of the word. In which State, or in how many, were witches burned?"

Katherine Gamble (address not given) writes that the article "evidences a very laudable desire to deal in a fair-minded way with the crime of lynching. The article shows much insight into the point at issue when it convincingly shows the reader that a crime almost entirely conceived by many to be confined to the South, so far from being localized south of the Mason and Dixon line is really national and international in its expression." But this writer challenges the statement that more Negroes have been done to death in the South than elsewhere. "In instances of Negro lynching in the South only the guilty party is executed, while in the race riots mentioned in the article innocent and defenseless Negroes were the victims in large numbers." The responsibility for lynchings, says this writer, belongs not to the churches, but to the bar associations and the Legislatures.

"If this recent spineless effort at law enforcement is a sample of what we can expect in an emergency," writes Duncan D. Earl, of San Jose, California, speaking of the San Jose affair, "may God have mercy on the souls of any of us who are dumb enough to try to take away the right of the average citizen to bear arms for the protection of his life and home."

"I congratulate you on the article," writes Philip S. Cummings, of Oxnard, California. He thinks "our courts and court procedure are really the primary cause of lynching."

"After reading the article, I am of the opinion that this country as a whole is mob-minded," writes F. J. King of Brooklyn, New York.

"The article by Mr. Mackreth on 'The Lynching Evil and Church Responsibility,' is most decidedly the best this writer has had the good fortune to read in a long time," writes Owen Saunders, of Gainesville, Texas. However, Mr. Saunders disagrees with the statement that lynching is "the ripe harvest of poverty and ignorance," and says "most lynchings here in the South occurred because some monster had the temerity to lay violent hands on a good woman."

Mr. W. M. Anderson, of Montgomery, Alabama, maintains that Christ was not lynched but put to death, "after trial and seemingly by consent of the Roman Government. He was not lynched."

"Ably presented, but tainted with sentiment," writes I. R. Gould, of Palmetto, Florida, of the article.

"You evidently are from the South. Trying to shift the responsibility on the Church is not exactly fair," writes Ernest N. Barringer, of New York

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SALAMANCA, N. Y.
REPUBLICAN PRESS

FEB 12 1934

THE VOICE OF LINCOLN

A negro was burned by a mob in St. Louis in 1836. The next year a young lawyer of Springfield, Ill., was invited to speak before a Young Men's Lyceum. He selected as his topic, "The Perpetuation of Our Political Institutions."

"If destruction be our lot," said this young lawyer, "we ourselves must be its author and finisher."

And in that address Abraham Lincoln sounded one of the major notes of his career—respect for law and its orderly processes, and insistence that observance of law is a basic duty of citizenship.

"There is even now something of ill omen among us," said Lincoln, referring to the St. Louis lynching. "I mean the increasing disregard of law which pervades the country; the growing disposition to substitute the wild and furious passions in lieu of the sober judgments of courts; and the worse than savage mobs, for the executive ministers of justice. * * * If the laws be continually despised and disregarded, if their (citizens') rights to be secure in their persons and property are held by no better tenure than the caprice of a mob, the alienation of their affection from the government is the natural consequence, and to that sooner or later it must come."

The reverence in which Abraham Lincoln is held all over the civilized world marks him as one of the great figures of all time. This is a good time to listen to his voice and his counsel. The shadow of lynching is still over the country, and within recent months has become darker than ever before. The right of the individual citizen to be secure in person and property needs again to be emphasized amid the efforts of a group of radicals to put into effect a drastic program the purpose of which they proclaim to be to take billions away from those who have saved and accumulated and to give it to those who have not

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NEW BRITAIN, CONN
HERALD
FEB 1 1934

WEAKNESS OF LYNCH LAW

If in Florida a white man had been suspected of the crime which resulted in the lynching of a Negro it is quite certain that a similar fate would not have been meted out to the culprit. That is one weakness of mob law—it is a law of prejudice.

Another weakness is that it does not prevent or deter the type of crime which usually is the precedent of a lynching bee. Instead of actuating blacks with fear, it creates that antipathy and antagonism which grasps an opportunity for revenge.

The crime is due to psychological reasons; and in regions where the least attention is paid to the minds of the downtrodden race naturally the maximum of such crime is to be expected.

Instead of trying to keep down a large section of the population, if there were an attempt made to uplift the minds of these people, in time there would be less possibility or cause for lynching outrages.

ROCHESTER, N. Y.
TIMES UNION
APR 10 1934

The South's Problem Child

When there is an end of lynching in the United States, it will come first in the South and be borne on the shoulders of Southerners who recognize, as one man does down there, that lynchers "are as depraved and conscienceless as the guiltiest victim whom they shoot or burn."

This plain statement of fact is from the pen of the editor of the Christian Advocate, official organ of the Methodist Church South, whose name is Dr. W. P. King. Comparing the 1933 lynching record of 28 with the 8 crimes of this kind in 1932 and the 13 in 1931 this editor confesses the shame of all good Southerners and adds, "if the better elements in our population do not arouse themselves against lynching, they need not complain if the crime is made a federal offense, and the fetish of states' rights taken from them."

A voice raised in the South by a son of the South is salutary and hopeful. After all, lynching is the South's problem child. Northerners have known too much to indict a whole section for this sin. Yet they have wondered where the sensitive and patriotic Southerner hides when the mob spirit is in command, and what he does with his influence between times.

It is in the interludes between these ghastly crimes that public opinion must get in its work, and the sources of this opinion are the churches, the civic and patriotic societies, chambers of commerce, schools and every common meeting place where people foregather and act collectively.

It would be good news if Dr. King can arouse his own powerful communion in the matter.

Lynchings-1934
6
Discussions.

White Press, Northern.

4562

SYRACUSE, N. Y.
HERALD

DEC 22 1934

TENNESSEE'S NOTABLE AMENDS

In its mad zeal for administering lynch law the Shelbyville, Tenn., mob destroyed the valuable court house, but missed its real target. It was a flagrant demonstration of riotous frenzy, but compensating features were not lacking. In the vital test orderly justice triumphed. The mob was cheated of its prey, and in this vindication of the law the county and the State, through the courage and determination of their protective forces, upheld the ideal of American criminal justice properly enforced by judge and jury.

The vindication was sorely needed in Tennessee. That State has been shamed by a record of three lynchings—one of a Negro and two of white men within eighteen months. In each case the mob outrage was avertible by official nerve, bravery and fidelity. One of the three victims was a Negro lynched in Bedford County (wherein Shelbyville is located) despite or because of the fact that the Grand Jury had refused to indict him. On Wednesday last, Tennessee was able to point to welcome acts of atonement. All because a sheriff, a Governor, the local police and a detachment of the National Guard mastered the crisis by a loyal performance of their sworn duty. The loss of the court house was a local calamity; and yet it was a comparatively small price to pay for the national honor gained by the county in a desperate ordeal.

There are indications of the enactment by Congress of a Federal anti-lynching law well equipped with teeth. The latest experience of Tennessee should give decisive momentum to the proposal. The strong arm of the Federal Government is now reaching out to grip the bandits branded as public enemies. Lynching mobs deserve a place in this outlawed class; for what species of outlawry can be more insidious than a mob uprising intent on defying and paralyzing the orderly process of justice?

Certain fiendish crimes which are more frequent in the South than in other sections of the country may explain, but they cannot condone, mob violence. Where the evidence is conclusive, the more heinous the crime the more certain it is that the courts will dispose of the perpetrator in the right way. On the other hand, where the evidence is lacking or doubtful, a mob angered by the crime itself is the worst conceivable agency for deciding the question of guilt or innocence.

HARTFORD, CONN.
COURANT

DEC 21 1934

Tennessee's Good Example

The hot anger that was aroused when the Governor of Maryland sent troops to the Eastern Shore to prevent a lynching probably will blaze up against the Governor of Tennessee, who acted similarly when a mob in Shelbyville threatened to lynch a Negro held there on a charge of having assaulted a white girl. The anger of the mob in Tennessee is likely to be even greater than it was in Maryland, for in the defense of the prisoner at Shelbyville at least three men were killed and several others seriously injured. Partly because of his stand for law and order, Mr. Ritchie was defeated for reelection a month ago, and Mr. McAlister may expect similar reprisals when he next seeks office.

None the less, to be the object of popular resentment for such reasons is not a dishonor, and Mr. McAlister, like Mr. Ritchie, deserves commendation for not faltering, as others in his place have done, when confronted with a plain duty. To uphold the orderly processes of the law, by force if necessary, is among the first duties of a Governor, and Mr. McAlister discharged it unflinchingly. That citizens were shot and killed in consequence is unfortunate, but they had, by their virtual rebellion against the State, by their determination to take the law in their own hands, by their preparation to commit a murder, made themselves outlaws. Although they may have assumed that they were acting in defense of society, they were not. On the contrary, they were acting in a manner to defeat the ends of civilized government, and so doing, they brought their fate upon themselves.

Calling out the National Guard is no solution for the evils that lynching represents. Their roots go deep, and to dig them up calls for other instruments than a bayonet or a rifle,—education, economic security and social stability. None the less, if the state, as in Tennessee, would make plain more frequently that it would resist efforts to overthrow its authority with all the force at its command, lynchings might be less frequent than they now are. By demonstrating that it will not turn its back on, much less connive with, a mob that sets out to wreak barbaric vengeance on an accused individual, Tennessee has set the rest of the nation a good exampl

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NEW HAVEN, CONN.
JOURNAL COURIER

DEC 22 1934

The Shelbyville Lesson.

From Tennessee, that state whose cities have regularly stood at the top or near the top on the annual lists of lynchings, comes the first rioting response to the President's appeal against lawlessness in general and mob violence in particular. When those rioters from the outlying districts of Shelbyville thrice stormed the courthouse, they underlined the President's appeal with proof that it was based upon prevalent fact. And from Tennessee, that state whose observance of civil discipline has often been the butt of jeering jests, comes the first clear encouragement of a cure.

It required courage for Governor McAlister to call out troops as he did. For he must have known that he was thereby signing what may become his own political death certificate. Before him was the example of Mr. Ritchie of Maryland, who lost the last election largely because he had called out state militia to prevent a lynching at Eastern Point. Governor McAlister made no mere gesture, reversed the tradition of feeble pretense of protection. It is unfortunate, it is tragic that three deaths should have been the price of that protection. But beyond the tragedy of these deaths is the deeper tragedy that they should have been necessary to support a principle with which all reasoning citizens align their allegiance. Some good may come from this evil. The lesson taught at Shelbyville may serve as a deterrent to future anti-social demonstrations, may stiffen the determination of other enforcement officials to resist mob demands.

But Governor McAlister has not, of course, suggested a complete cure. You cannot heal a social disease merely by driving it under cover. You must strike at the root of the evil. And there can be no doubt that behind lynching, as behind all criminal activities, lurks the spirit of lawlessness itself. The mobsters at Shelbyville had none of the traditional frontier justifications that the law was not strong enough to act, that justice could not be pursued through orderly processes. The prisoner was in the courtroom, the trial was moving inevitably towards its conclusion. A mistrial was declared only when the tumult outside showed the need for a shift of venue. The rioters, that is, acted on the belief, nurtured by past performances, that a mob can take matters into its own hands. Such symptoms of lawlessness can be eradicated only by public education, by political action and by more equitable and more rapid legal action against all crime.

HARRISBURG, PA.
PATRIOT

DEC 21 1934

BOOZE AND THE MOB

Again the mob. This time it is Shelbyville, Tenn. A Negro on trial for attacking a white girl is the pretext for the mob spirit, but the actual cause of it in this case, according to public officials, is booze. "Crazy drunkenness caused the trouble in Shelbyville," says Deputy Sheriff Gant.

Nobody need be surprised. The county courthouse is burned. Two of the rioters are dead, others injured. The prisoner for the moment is safe. The whole Country is humiliated. The one comfort is that public authority this time stood up in defense of law and order. It did the best it could to beat back the mob and succeeded in part.

One wonders to what extent all lynchings are influenced by the booze that cowards consume to stiffen their spines for such lawless outbreaks.

BALTIMORE, MD.
EVENING SUN

DEC 20 1934

Community Rabies

Less frequently than twenty years ago, but still too frequently, one hears the silly sentimentality that lynching mobs are the expression of indignation of a high-minded citizenry outraged by atrocious crime and determined to administer rough, but even-handed, justice.

Anyone thoughtless enough to accept such blather should take a look at Shelbyville, Tenn., this morning. There he can see exactly how high-minded a mob is, and how much regard it has for justice. In that town the mob, cheated of its prey by bold and resourceful officers, proceeded to burn down the courthouse, built by the people of Shelbyville and which must be replaced by them. That is to say, the mob vented its fury by destroying $150,000 worth of its own property.

This has nothing to do with high-mindedness, nor with justice. This is sheer insanity. A mob is simply a crazy beast, ent on destruction and a deadly mena
o everything and everybody, its own
nembers included. Peace officers who fai
o suppress mob action are just as guilty
s if they had deliberately turned a mad
og loose in the streets

SPRINGFIELD, MASS.
REPUBLICAN

DEC 21 1934

The Shelbyville Outrage

The state of Tennessee is to b congratulated upon the vigorou and successful action of its law enforcing authorities in preventing th Shelbyville lynching mob from accomplishing its purpose. Early reports of the affair indicate the National guardsmen were called ou promptly when they seemed likel to be needed, that they were commanded wisely and that they behaved with both courage and restraint.

The affair will be weighed in all its bearings with reference to its possible effect upon the proposal for a federal antilynching law which is almost certain to come before the next Congress, and with a fair chance of passage. The accused Negro was in court ready for trial. There can have been no doubt that the jury would find him guilty if the evidence warranted it and that he would speedily have suffered the full penalty of the law. The mob had no whit of the frontiersmen's excuse for summary action without law, either on the ground of th absence of legal authority or of it corruption. It is difficult to interpret its conduct as other than an orgy of blood lust; a pretext for the unrestrained exercise of primitive passion.

It so happens that in the annual statistics of homicide in the United States the principal cities of Tennessee have for years stood at the top and near the top of the list in numbers of killings. The Shelbyville demonstration is consistent with an assumption that this indifference to death by violence is characteristic of other regions of the state. The fundamental difficulty is clearly a debased public sentiment. This is a matter which must be the direct concern primarily of the sober-minded citizens of the state itself. That the Shelbyville mob did not have the cooperation of sympathizing or pusillanimous officials, civic or military, is ncouraging.

ROME, N. Y.
SENTINEL

DEC 20 1934

'Twas Their Own Building

It is no newly discovered fact that a group of human beings will do with gusto what almost any member in a sober moment would condemn as foolish or criminal. Nevertheless at every such manifestation of mob action as that at Shelbyville, Tennessee, in which the $150,000 courthouse was burned in retaliation for the removal of a Negro the crowd had been bent on lynching, we can but marvel at the inconsistency of man.

We adopt constitutions containing "guarantees" to the humblest citizen, including jury trials. We elect lawmakers to enact legislation for the execution of the constitution; for the protection of life and property on the one hand and the punishment of criminals on the other. The lawmakers and the governor join in setting up judicial machinery. The taxpayers are assessed for the erection of courthouses and jails. Peace officers and military are maintained to uphold the dignity of the law.

Then some fool, who may have been none too law-abiding himself or one who places his love of excitement above all other considerations, advocates anticipating the courts in the punishment of a poor wretch—most often a Negro. Not only hoodlums but men who have boasted of their high respectability accept his leadedrship. They march to the jail and demand the accused. If the sheriff is true to his oath, he refuses to comply. Then the mob arms itself and proceeds to assault.

At Shelbyville the sheriff upheld the law to the point of summoning troops and spiriting away the prisoner in question. But when the military had dispersed, the mob reassembled and destroyed the courthouse. Seemingly they did it to spite the lawfully constituted authorities. But who elected those officials? More to the point, who paid for the courthouse and who will pay for its rebuilding? Of couse the answer is, every one who participated in the destruction. It was their own building.

DEVILS LAKE, N. D.
JOURNAL

DEC 21 1934

Spending Human Lives

The tragic incident of the slaying by national guardsmen of two members of a mob of 500 persons in the little town of Shelbyville, Tenn., will no doubt draw much criticism of public officials and probably of the guardsmen.

Someone erred and it appears that the negro who was wanted by the mob could have been brought to justice without spending human lives. The mob sought in an abortive attempt to take from authorities a negro charged with assaulting a 14-year-old school girl. A scent of lynching was apparent as the mob charged the court house where the negro was to go on trial. We do not intimate that hanging was not the proper punishment for the negro, because anyone who attempts an assault upon a young girl deserves to be punished with no less a penalty.

However, laws are set up in states to deal with criminals and in this case the responsibility of punishment devolved upon the courts. Killings are not uncommon in the south land where racial fights have been brewing for years and it might have been wel for the officials to have been prepared in case of such a situation which confronted them when the mob attempted to seize the negro. The mob did burn a $150,000 court house and threw stones at the guardsmen and otherwise insulted them. The soldiers did the killing but they were not to blame because they acted under orders from a high command.

However, it seems that the trial should have never been attempted in Shelbyville. The negro should have been transported to a larger city for trial and there dealt with in proper judicial manner. It would have prevented two deaths and the wounding of seven others and in addition the $150,000 courthouse would have been standing today.

Tactics of the guardsmen may also come in for consideration as many will argue that the killing was not necessary to prevent the mob from their actions. There is no one so saddened by this result than the soldiers who committed the killings. They are sworn to defend the flag and the American people and not to kill their own fellow citizens. The affair is a blow to American principles. It might have been averted and it is hoped that a similar situation will not materialize.

WILMINGTON, DEL.
NEWS

DEC 21 1934

THE PLACE FOR GOOD CITIZENS

Two men who were in the mob that tried to lynch a Negro at Shelbyville, Tennessee, are dead.

Two others are said to be dying.

The bullets and bayonets of National Guardsmen, sent to guard the Negro and the Court House where he was held, accounted for the dead and dying.

The Negro, charged with attacking a 14-year-old white girl, is safe in Nashville But the mob, insane, burned down the Court House after he was taken away.

As far as we know the men who were killed and who are near death were good citizens in ordinary life.

But only one of them had a grievance that might be considered the slightest excuse for taking vengeance on the prisoner guilty or not.

He was a relative of the child.

The others may have been bystanders. They may have come to the Court House just to see the excitement. They may have been active in the rioting. They may have been leaders.

Whatever they were, they had no good reason for being there. If they were there to lynch a man, they had a bad reason. If they were there to look on, they had no reason.

It is a fundamental principle that every man has a right to a fair trial. Any invasion of that principle tears at the fabric of the system we take such pride in. Men of the law must protect innocent men—and all men are innocent until proved guilty.

The law itself must be allowed to take its course.

It makes no difference if the man was guilty. Justice is the law's: the law will avenge.

Good citizens should recognize this. They should stay at home under these circumstances. They should not risk exposing themselvese to the whirlwind force of mob spirit. They should not seem to give support to men who would break the law.

We cannot feel very sad for the dead or the dying. We do feel sorry for their families and friends. We feel deeply regretful that the whole tragic incident ever took place.

But the two would be alive today if they had stayed at home. Home, when mobs are making, is the place for good citizens.

Lynchings—1934
Discussion -

White Press, Northern.

4563

CAMDEN, N. J.
POST

DEC 21 1934

LYNCHINGS CAN BE STOPPED

The way to stop lynchings—is to stop them.

That is the moral of what happened Wednesday night at Shelbyville, Tennessee.

It is not pleasant to think of American citizens being mowed down by machine guns. The necessity for such drastic measures is almost as disgraceful as lynching itself.

But the fact remains that recent lynch mobs in Maryland, California, Louisiana and Florida have carried out their intention—because the forces of law and order did not act.

In Florida, only a few weeks ago, the forces of the law, taking their cue from Governor Dave Sholtz, openly tolerated one of the most revolting lynchings in history—a sure method of breeding mob violence in the future.

The Shelbyville mob was thwarted chiefly because of the attitude of Governor Hill McAlister, who apparently made up his mind to enforce the law at any cost.

If more governors were willing to follow his example, it would not take long to stamp out these revolting crimes.

The feeling has prevailed that a really firm stand against lynching would be political suicide. It is our guess that this belief is mistaken. The majority of people in the South are just as opposed to lynching as those in the North.

Governor McAlister may find political rewards for the performance of his duty. Certainly he deserves them.

The handful of national guardsmen also deserve credit. They kept their heads and their determination to protect the prisoner.

* * * * * *

After the guardsmen left, an event occurred which throws considerable light on the lynch spirit.

The mob deliberately burned the courthouse.

There was no conceivable purpose in this act of sheer vandalism. Doesn't this strengthen the contention that a part of the lynch psychology is savage manifestation of the spirit of rowdyism?

The mob was not revenging itself on the Negro. It was destroying county property which the members of the mob will have to pay to replace. The would-be lynchers might easily have burned down their own homes as a result of firing the courthouse.

The only explanation is that they were out to destroy. And when they were deprived of a human victim they built a big bonfire—the courthouse—instead.

When this aspect of the lynch motive is more clearly understood perhaps officials will be less likely to excuse and condone and let mobs have their way.

MARION, O.
STAR

DEC 22 1934

Shelbyville's Courthouse.

Shelbyville, Tenn., will have to build a new courthouse. Most of the money will have to come from taxation. Some of the taxpayers won't like the idea.

Shelbyville residents burned the courthouse deliberately, last Wednesday, because national guardsmen had prevented them from lynching a Negro. They started out by being angry with a member of the Negro race. Before long they were angry with members of their own race. They ended up by being angry with themselves for doing what must have seemed very foolish after a few hours had elapsed. Four men were killed and a score injured.

The intended victim of their disorder, disguised in a national guardsman's uniform, was saved. Unless another mob is more successful than the one at Shelbyville, the Negro will be given a trial. If found guilty of the crime with which he is charged, he will be punished by the state. Shelbyville, by burning down its courthouse, unintentionally performed a symbolic ceremonial of destroying the law.

There usually is a neglected side to such ncidents. It is assumed without dependable evidence that the whole town of Shelbyville (5,000) participated in the senseless riot. Undoubtedly, there were many who disapproved strongly. An eyewitness reports that members of the mob which collected at the outset of a day and night of rioting were rowdies, many of them stupefied with alcohol.

Northerners have learned to know the potentialities of race antagonism in the South, but not even hatred could make people burn down their own courthouse. Stupidity, viciousness and alcohol, three familiar cronies of Judge Lynch, had a short reign of terror in Shelbyville, Wednesday. Unfortunately, decent citizens will have to pay for the damage they did.

PHILADELPHIA, PA.
RECORD

DEC 21 1934

LYNCHINGS CAN BE STOPPED

The way to stop lynchings—is to stop them

That is the moral of what happened Wednesday night at Shelbyville, Tennessee.

It is not pleasant to think of American citizens being mowed down by machine guns. The necessity for such drastic measures is almost as disgraceful as the institution of lynching itself.

But the fact remains that recent lynch mobs in Maryland, California, Louisiana and Florida have carried out their intention—because the forces of law and order did not act.

In Florida, only a few weeks ago, the forces of the law, taking their cue from Governor Dave Sholtz, openly tolerated one of the most revolting lynchings in history—a sure method of breeding mob violence in the future.

The Shelbyville mob was thwarted chiefly because of the attitude of Governor Hill McAlister, who apparently made up his mind to enforce the law at any cost.

If more Governors were willing to follow his example, it would not take long to stamp out these revolting crimes. It would not be necessary for troops to fire on American citizens Governor McAlister can thank Governor Sholtz in part, for the troubles of Tennessee.

Few office holders in the South have been noted for such courage in similar circumstances

The feeling has prevailed that a really firm stand against lynching would be political suicide. It is The Record's guess that this belief is mistaken. The majority of people in the South are just as opposed to lynching as those in the North.

Governor McAlister may find political rewards for the performance of his duty. Certainly he deserves them.

The handful of national guardsmen also deserve credit. They kept their heads and their determination to protect the prisoner. They tried reasoning with the mob. When that failed they tried tear gas. When that failed, they used bullets.

The mob withdrew. To avoid bloodshed, the guardsmen spirited the Negro prisoner away in a soldier's uniform, his face covered by a gas mask.

Then their work was done. They marched out of town in good order while mobsters pelted them with stones. The guardsmen made no effort to defend themselves or return the attack **—a magnificent exhibition of self-control and courage.**

* * *

After the guardsmen left, an event occurred which throws considerable light on the lynch spirit.

The mob deliberately burned the Courthouse. They knew the Negro and the guardsmen were gone. There was no conceivable purpose in this act of sheer vandalism. Doesn't this strengthen the contention that a part of the lynch psychology is savage manifestation of the spirit of rowdyism?

Apologists for lynching are apt to over-rationalize it. They will tell about the great "dread" of the Negro which is supposed to exist in the South. They will discuss the inflammatory effects of dilatory trials and miscarriages of justice

But how to rationalize the burning of the Courthouse along those lines?

The mob was not revenging itself on the Negro It was not harming the lawyers or the guardsmen. It was destroying county property which the members of the mob will have to pay to replace.

Further, every building in the town was endangered by the fire. The would-be lynchers might easily have burned down their own homes as a result of firing the Courthouse.

The only explanation is that they were out to destroy. And when they were deprived of a human victim they built a big bonfire—the Courthouse—instead.

When this aspect of the lynch motive is more clearly understood perhaps officials will be less likely to excuse and condone and let mobs have their way.

PHILADELPIA, PA.
NEWS

DEC 21 1934

AUTHORITY RISES ABOVE MOB

FOR the first time in many years the majesty and power of the law rose higher in the southland than mob rule. While it is a pity that two men were killed by the Tennessee militia in protecting a Negro, accused of assault, from an irresponsible band bent on lynching, the fact remains that the principle of law observance was upheld.

And the best proof of effectiveness of a stern treatment of a mob is seen in the news that Shelbyville is quiet. Apparently, the calm judgment of the community approved what had to be done.

Majority Rule

Few lynchings ever reflected a majority of the citizens. Mostly the mobs are made up of a few reckless but determined men and a large number of youths. They are explosions which create havoc and leave behind a mass of debris.

Lynchings of the south cannot be placed in the same category as the work of the vigilantes of the west. The vigilantes represented the best people of their communities and they acted only when law had failed, or where there was no law.

One of the indictments against lynching is that it reveals the complete lack of confidence by a community in its own law officers and courts.

The state of Tennessee through its national guard met this challenge and the lesson will not be forgotten.

SPRINGFIELD, O.
NEWS

DEC 22 1934

LESSON IN TENNESSEE

The tragedy of the mob was never more shockingly demonstrated than it has been at Shelbyville, Tenn. Two of the members of this mob are dead and several others probably fatally wounded. The courthouse, fired by the mob, was razed with a loss of $100,000. They did not get their intended victim, a Negro accused of attacking a white girl.

The law was ready to deal with its prisoner when the mob interfered. Governor McAlister dispatched to Shelbyville, 500 guardsmen who took the assignment seriously. When the mob rushed the courthouse they held it off, even when that required the use of bullet and bayonet along with tear gas. There were three futile attempts to take and lynch the prisoner, meanwhile spirited away. Then the mob burned the courthouse and four troop trucks.

This is an unusual story, particularly for the south. Mobs generally, unhindered by the authorities, accomplish their lawless purpose and go unpunished. The encouragement which this has given to lynching i obvious. The state rarely acts with th courage demonstrated in Tennessee. Th south doesn't want a federal anti-lynchin measure. Let other states copy Tennesse as in this case and that measure will not b needed.

BUFFALO, N. Y.
NEWS

DEC 21 1934

TENNESSEE'S TRIUMPH

The mob met its master at Shelbyville in the Volunteer state the other day. The troops which fired on the rioters in defense of a Negro, the local peace officers and the judge who co-operated with them, the governor who dispatched National Guardsmen so promptly to the danger zone, all deserve the commendation of the nation. Tennessee has again triumphed over the baneful spirit of mob violence, has declared to the world its intention of preserving civilized forms of jurisprudence.

The action taken by Gov. Hill McAlister was in startling and significant contrast to the resent supine attitude displayed by Florida's chief executive. He did not ignore the request for help when the first threat of a lynching bee was made at Shelbyville. On the contrary, he moved swiftly to cope with the emergency. The "crazy drunk" mob had its way, destroying a courthouse which cost the taxpayers of the county $150,000, but the suspect it sought to slay was removed from danger after rioters who had dared to attack determined officers and men were killed and wounded.

The affair at Shelbyville indicates clearly one thing: that lynching can be eradicated if and when mobs are fired upon. The average member of such a lawless group is innately a coward. In addition, he is usually the type of citizen who has no particular business or occupation. Tennessee has had an enviable reputation in the past for preventing extralegal violence. Its governors have invariably taken firm stands for law and order, succoring local peace officers in time of need. Gov. McAlister may have lost the regard of that lunatic fringe which considers lynching as divine an institution as slavery, but he has won and will keep the respect and admiration of law-abiding citizens of Tennessee and the nation.

Brooklyn, N. Y. Eagle

DEC 22 1934

A Courageous Governor.

Governor McAllister of Tennessee acted with promptness and courage when he ordered out a detachment of the National Guard to escort to the court of Shelbyville a Negro accused of attacking a child. The officer in command of the guardsmen also acted with promptness and courage when he ordered his men to repel an assault on the court house by a mob of would-be lynchers. It is regrettable that lives were lost when the raid was repulsed, but it would have been an occasion for infinitely greater regret if the raiders had succeeded in their purpose and lynched the Negro. But the mob did succeed in firing the court house after the National Guard had carried the prisoner off to a safer place of detention at Nashville, and the Governor had to call out another detachment to police Shelbyville.

Many lynchings have occurred in this country simply because Governors have been slow to act when local authority has either connived at violence or been too weak to resist it. The crime with which this Negro is charged is an atrocious one, but in the eyes of the law he is still presumed to be innocent, and therefore entitled to a fair trial. Governor McAllister is doing the people of Tennessee a service in seeing that the law is respected, even if the process results in bloodshed by agents of the law. The records everywhere show that lynchers who in a very real sense are themselves criminals seldom or never meet with punishment. The only sound method of dealing with a lynching that will not listen to reason is to oppose it with a physically stronger force under orders to use its strength at all hazards to maintain the law.

Lynchings - 1934

Discussions.

White Press, Northern.

4564

New York Herald-Tribune
NOV 4 1934

Florida Lynching Revives Move For Federal Law Against Mobs

Senators Wagner and Costigan to Reintroduce Bill Providing for United States Intervention When the States Fail to Prevent Outbreaks

That grim tragedy of the recent orgy of rope and faggot in Florida has revived the efforts to suppress lynching by means of Federal law. A bill like those which have died in committee in Washington will be reintroduced in the next session of the United States Senate. The President has been asked also to have investigated the possibility of having the persons who abducted and killed the latest victim prosecuted for kidnaping under the "Lindbergh law."

Lynching is generally recognized as of American origin. Two Judge Lynches of Virginia—self-appointed—and another in South Carolina of the same lawless persuasion are variously credited with having established this custom. It flourishes nowadays mostly in the Southern states, where the great majority of those done to death are Negroes. For many years, however, it was a feature of life in the "Wild West," where horse thieves and cattle rustlers and claim jumpers had short shift at the hands of the mob.

"Lindbergh Law" Held Applicable

The "Lindbergh law," a statute of the United States, was passed shortly after the kidnaping of the infant son of Charles A. Lindbergh, the aviator, in March, 1932. It makes the abduction of a person across state lines a capital offense if it involves extortion and personal injury. In the law as amended the interstate abduction is defined as an act undertaken for ransom or reward "or otherwise."

The Negro who was the central figure in this last lynching bee was taken from Alabama to Marianna, Fla. It is held by numerous organizations opposed to the ways of Judge Lynch that "or otherwise" means any purpose similar to that of extortion or ransom, in fact any criminal act involving injury or death. As counsel for the National Association for the Advancement of the Colored People, Arthur Garfield Hays takes this view. The foes of lynching suggest further amending the Lindbergh statute so as to definitely mention the acts of mob violence which result in the death of accused persons.

It is maintained by many investigators of this subject that the Federal law proposed a year ago by Senators Robert F. Wagner, of New York, and Edward P. Costigan, of Colorado, would prove effective in suppressing the acts of the mob.

Under the Wagner-Costigan bill a mob or riotous assemblage is defined as a group of three or more persons acting in concert and without authority of law to kill or injure any person in the custody of any peace officer with the purpose or consequence of depriving such person of due process of law or the equal protection of the laws."

Provides State Protection

The measure sets forth that any state or governmental subdivision which fails, neglects or refuses to protect the life of a person against a mob shall have not only failed to guarantee constitutional rights under its own constitution but that of the United States at large. This condition, therefore, calls for Federal intervention.

Any peace officer having an accused person in charge who fails or neglects to protect him from the mob or refuses to make all diligent efforts to do so is held guilty of a felony. He is likewise culpable if he fails or omits to try diligently to arrest all persons who have taken part in a lynching. Upon conviction he may be punished by a fine not to exceed $5,000 or by not more than five years imprisonment or by both penalties.

If an official is proven to have acted in collusion or conspiracy with a member or members of a mob to surrender his prisoner to vengeance, he and those plotting with him may be punished by a prison sentence of not less than five years, nor more than twenty-five years. Trials for violation of the proposed law would take place in the Federal District Court. The national government would be empowered to act, if the state did not do so within thirty days after the commission of the offense.

The vital provision of the bill, in the opinion of many, is that which punishes the community itself. Any county in which a lynching occurs is held liable to the injured person, or to his heirs or legal representatives in the event of his or her death.

The sum recovered may be not less than $2,000 nor more than $10,000 as liquidated damages. It may be recovered in a civil action against the county brought in the United States District Court having the proper geographical jurisdiction. If the amount of a judgment is not paid, the United States Marshal can levy on the property of the county. The sum recovered is exempt from all claims made by creditors of the deceased or injured.

Bill Ended in Committee

If the person who is put to death by a mob is transported by his lawless executioners from one county to another, the counties involved become jointly liable.

The bill was introduced in the Senate last January, and after having been discussed at several hearings before the Committee on Judiciary, to which it was referred, passed into legislative discussion. Its authors expect to introduce it at the first of next year in practically the same form and stressing the punishment on the communities. The provision of the city or county fine appears in the laws of several states. There are also laws in the thirty-six commonwealths which more or less specifically forbid lynching. As a mater of fact, prosecutions for lynching do not require such laws, as the crime is murder and those who take part in lynching are accessories to an act forbidden since the bringing of the Ten Commandments from Mount Sinai. The common law is strong enough to proceed under where there is an intent to punish mob violence.

Lynchings in U. S. From 1900 to 1934

Year	Lynchings	Year	Lynchings
1900	101	1918	67
1901	125	1919	33
1902	94	1920	65
1903	104	1921	64
1904	86	1922	61
1905	65	1923	28
1906	68	1924	16
1907	62	1925	18
1908	100	1926	34
1909	89	1927	21
1910	90	1928	11
1911	71	1929	12
1912	64	1930	25
1913	48	1931	14
1914	54	1932	10
1915	96	1933	28
1916	58	1934	20
1917	50		

Lynchers Escape Death Penalty

Despite the drastic laws of some states in which the lyncher is subject on conviction, to a sentence of death or life imprisonment, no such sentences have ever been pronounced. There have been instances of lynchers or their confederates or accessories having passed brief terms in prison but they are few.

The theory of the proponents of the Federal anti-lynching law is that in the states where the unlawful action is most prevalent the sheriffs and other peace officers, being duly elected and under political obligations, do not care to arrest persons who have been mob leaders. This especially applies to Southern states where the Negroes who are most concerned as subjects for lynch law have virtually no franchise.

The causes which lead to increases in lynching are numerous and complex. They spring from racial animosities, social changes, industrial and commercial recessions. It is noted, however, that whenever a movement for Federal legislation gets under way, with its proposals to hold communities as well as individuals responsible the annual toll of lynchings declines. This may be mere coincidence, but it is none the less significant.

There had been many outbreaks of lynching in 1920, sixty-five in all, or twice as many as in the preceding year. A determined agitation was started for a Federal statute on the lines of a bill introduced in the House of Representatives by L. C. Dyer, of Missouri. There came a slight decline of lynchings in the next two years. The bill meanwhile, after many hearings, passed the House, but in 1922 was defeated in the Senate. According to its advocates it lost out through a filibuster of the Southern Senators. The record dropped to twenty-eight in 1923 and the 1925 count was eighteen. The agitation drooped for some months and in 1926 the lynchings were thirty-four. The late Representative Victor C. Berger, of Wisconsin, in 1926 introduced another Federal anti-lynching bill. It was defeated, but for all that there was a steady drop in the toll up to 1930. The number went up to twenty-eight in 1933 and caused redoubled efforts on the part of the champions of Federal control. The Costigan-Wagner bill introduced at the first of this year was the answer to this situation.

There are, of course, other factors. When a large part of the Negro population shifts from the South northward, as it often does, the lynchings grow less. If there is industrial and agricultural depression in states where the Negro population is large, the white element is likely to be hostile to it as rival for employment. At any rate, lack of work sets loose many idlers irrespective of race, and their very lack of occupation is likely to start trouble.

More in Last Century

Lynchings of recent years have been attended by such sensational cruelties that they have drawn much notice from the press of the country. As a matter of fact they are few as compared with records of the last half of the nineteenth century. The statistics on lynchings are gathered by such organizations as the Federal Council of Churches, the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People and by a research bureau of the Tuskgee Institute. There is no governmental agency devoted to collating such information. The returns from the different sources, however, vary little; the limit of error is only one a year.

New York Herald-Tribune

DEC 12 1934

Women Fighting Lynching

To the New York Herald Tribune:

Perhaps I've missed an editorial such as I'd hoped for, drawing attention to the rising power and correctness of the Southern Women's Association to prevent lynching; for it is true that I often miss a paper altogether. But if not, I would like to draw attention to it myself.

I think I have heard of the association, but it was when Mrs. Cornell, of the Florida branch, sent those ringing telegrams to the Governor to try if possible to persuade him to protect Claude Neal from mob murder—when she reminded the Governor of his promise to prevent lynching when informed in time—I surely felt a great lift of the heart.

They are organized in fourteen states—West Virginia to Florida, with six representatives at large. The director is Mrs. Jessie Daniel Ames, 703 Standard Building, Atlanta, Ga. Their literature is exceedingly vigorous, well informed and fearless. I don't know where any development in race relations has so cheered my heart. There's no finer crusader for race justice and brotherhood than an aroused white Southerner.

S. N. CLEGHORN.

Arlington, Va., Dec. 9, 1934.

New York Evening Post

DEC 12 1934

Treat Lynchers as Bandits

President Roosevelt shows courage and an attitude new in national politics in listing lynching along with kidnaping, banditry and drug peddling as crimes that must be fought in the new national offensive against lawbreaking.

Although he softened the blow against the South by remarking that "lynching, unfortunately, is no longer confined to one section of the country," Mr. Roosevelt did speak of this crime as "horrifying" and did identify it with other violations of law.

Question: Will the Department of Justice now make use of the Lindbergh kidnaping law and the Fourteenth Amendment to send its efficient agents to arrest lynchers as they now arrest kidnapers?

The President's speech was an instruction to go ahead. How much longer will the kidnapers, torturers and murderers in the Marianna case be permitted to enjoy an immunity granted no other criminals?

CAMDEN, N. J.
POST

DEC 5 1934

AMERICA'S SHAME

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For once, in the lynching of Claude Neal, the Fourteenth amendment ought to be used for its intended purpose instead of for protection of corporate privilege.

Certainly in this well planned and publicized lynching—a lynching that might easily have been prevented by Florida authorities—a man was deprived of his life "without due process of law" and denied "equal protection of the laws."

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Nor is there any better indication of the ruling spirit in the South than the fact that a flood of protests to Governor Scholtz, of Florida, from prominent white Southern religious, women's and student groups have been ignored—

And that the Association is unable to divulge the name of the "young Southern white university professor" who made the report.

To do so, the Association declares in a letter to the press, "would seriously interfere with his great usefulness in the South and perhaps even might subject him to physical violence."

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The day after the lynching a mob beat and drove Negroes out of Marianna, even searching homes in the residential district for colored maids. The one redeeming feature of the picture is the courage shown by many white men and women in holding off the mob and protecting their colored employes.

There can be no doubt that vigorous action by the Department of Justice against the leaders of the lynch mob would meet with applause throughout the South, where the crime has aroused widespread revulsion.

* * * * * *

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It also lays bare the distress and the economic conflict that lie behind much of interracial bitterness in the South.

"This lynching," one observer told the professor who wrote this report, "was a surface eruption. The basic cause of the lynching was economic. Here you put your finger on the sore spot. The lynching had two objects: First, to intimidate and threaten the white employers of Negro labor and, secondly, to scare and terrorize the Negroes so that they would leave the county and their jobs could be taken over by white men."

A bitter struggle for bread is the root of this outbreak of savagery.

Unfortunately certain features of the recovery program—the treatment of Southern share-croppers under the A.A.A. and the covert discriminations allowed in many of the N.R.A. codes—have intensified a situation bad enough under the normal conditions of poverty and illiteracy in many sections of the South.

Lynchings-1934

Discussion-

White Press, Northern.

4565

4565

I. L. D. Challenges Cummings Alibi on Lynching of Neal

Attorney General Cummings' statement that the inter-state kidnaping and fiendish lynching of Claude Neal, Negro worker, afforded no basis for Federal government action was sharply challenged yesterday by both the International Labor Defense and the American Civil Liberties Union.

Attorneys for both organizations declared that the case of Neal is covered by the Lindbergh kidnaping law. They challenged Cummings' claim that the statute related only to cases involving a ransom, and pointed out that as amended on May 18, 1934, the law covers all cases where persons have been kidnaped and carried across state lines and "held for ransom or reward or otherwise."

The Union in a wire to President Roosevelt declared that the Neal lynching "offers a perfect set-up for federal action and challenges enforcement of law with the same relentlessness shown in Stoll and Lindbergh cases."

Fake investigations of the lynching ordered by the governors of Florida and Alabama are still dragging along without result, although Governor Sholtz, of Florida admits that "some of the ringleaders of the mob are supposed to be known."

The Federal government, ruthless in hunting down the kidnapers of bankers and other rich men, has so far refused to take any action to arrest and punish the kidnapers and murderers of the Negro worker. Neal was handed over by Alabama officials to a lynch gang, which took him across the state line to Florida, where he was tortured for 36 hours, while invitations for the lynch "festival" were broadcasted through the boss press and by couriers over the country-side

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Salt Lake City, Utah
DESERET NEWS
OCT 29 1934

LYNCH LAW

THE father of a murdered girl down in Florida feels himself wronged in that he was not permitted to fire the first shot into the body of her alleged assailant. His primitive complaint shows the place revenge still has in human feelings. Some loyalty to his slain child, some vain desire to appear important before the crowd, some primordial right to defend his own, and that may seem closely related to avenging his own, or some eagerness to indulge brutal feelings under what seem to him and his neighbors heroic circumstances, one of these motives or all of them together, led the Florida farmer to want first place in the lynching.

The vengeance was an unusual one. The mob crossed a state line, forcibly taking the prisoner from jail, held him while a crowd gathered on its invitation, then killed and mutilated him.

The negro is said to have confessed to the assault and murder of the young woman. If he was guilty his fright during the hours of waiting and death are approximately equivalent punishment for his crime.

There are two situations that make the lynching deplorable.

Alleged confessions sometimes never took place, and sometimes have been forced through promises or torture. There can be no judicial truth seeking atmosphere, when men are wild with blood lust. It h[illegible]en proved that every year in this country [illegible]nocent men are lynched.

The other reason for sorrow at such a mob crime is the effect on those who take part. Not only are they legal murderers, but they carry out their execution with all the barbarism of savages. Torture, drenching with gasoline, dragging the body through the streets, hanging in a public place, are all characteristic of lynch lawlessness.

In this case there was a violation of the federal kidnaping law, for the living prisoner was forcibly carried across a state line. This may bring to the scene the investigators of the department of justice. It would be a terribly dangerous assignment, but if the leaders were taken and tried before a federal court, future mobs would probably respect the state boundaries, or at least kill their victims before crossing them.

Education is of course the only sure way of curing such barbarism.

DENVER, COLO.
ROCKY MOUNTAIN NEWS
OCT 30 1934

A Federal Crime

UNLESS the federal government acts the Alabama-Florida lynching probably will go unpunished like virtually all other lynchings. Because of the mob's removal of the victim from one state to another, this was an interstate crime.

It is significant that those leading in the appeal for government action are Southerners.

The messages to President Roosevelt from the commission on inter-racial cooperation and to Attorney General Cummings from the Association of Southern Women for the Prevention of Lynching are further proof that the real spirit of the South abhors these frequent outbreaks of barbarism.

Lynchings are almost impossible without the connivance, open or tacit, of the local officers of the law with mobs. The long, sad, shameful record of racial mob savagery proves beyond argument that this terrible type of crime will never be controlled until the federal government intervenes to preserve American legal processes and to protect the lives of its citizens.

Enactment of the Costigan-Wagner anti-lynching bill, necessary to give the federal government power in all such cases, is one of the major charges upon the next congress. But that law cannot be passed without the active support of President Roosevelt in whose administration there have already been 45 lynchings.

ALLENTOWN, PA.
CALL
OCT 30 1934

LYNCHING MOB GUILTY UNDER LINDBERGH LAW

The Alabama mob that on Saturday took a Negro out of a jail, carried him over the border into Florida and there hanged him, very palpably violated the Lindbergh kidnaping law. It is going to be interesting to see whether the Federal authorities are going to do anything about it.

The Negro had been arrested and was in the hands of the proper officials and would have been tried in due time. Not a single person in the world, outside of the proper officials, had the right to lay a hand upon him. But the mob that seized him and transported him across the State's border, committed an inter-state kidnapping and as such any member of the mob upon conviction would be guilty of a crime which Congress has declared warrants the death penalty.

Up to this time the Federal authorities seem disinclined to do anything about it.

It might make a great deal of difference if the crime had not been committed in a pair of Southern States and it certainly would be regarded as the basis for the swiftest sort of action if the victim had been white.

Workers! Answer the Lynching of Neal

THE trail of responsibility for the kidnapping and subsequent fiendish torture and lynching of Claude Neal, 24-year-old Negro youth, near Marianna, Fla., Saturday night, leads clearly and unmistakably to the state governments of Florida and Alabama, to the Federal government and to the lesser lynch authorities of the two Southern states involved.

10-29-34

All news dispatches agree that Neal was held captive for 36 hours by his lynchers, while their plans for his murder were openly broadcast throughout several counties of the two states, and in the capitalist press of the entire country. Invitations "to all white folks to witness the slaying" were published in the boss press of several Florida and Alabama counties, and sent by couriers throughout the countryside.

New York

During those 36 hours, with the plans of the lynchers openly announced, with the location where Neal was held captive published in the Dothan, Ala., Eagle, with various officials admitting knowledge of these facts, what did the forces of capitalist "law and order" do? They lifted not one finger to prevent the perpetration of this outrage.

From Washington, U. S. Attorney General Cummings gave the seal of Federal approvement to the lynching with the declaration, issued several hours before the commission of the crime, that there was no basis for Federal action" in the case because "it did not involve a kidnapping for ransom." The Federal kidnapping statute was thus openly declared for the protection only of bankers and other rich men, certainly not workers, least of all Negro toilers.

Governor Dave Scholtz of Florida refused to call out troops until after the lynching had occurred, when he considered it necessary to rush troops into Jackson County for use against the indignant Negro toilers who were mobilizing to protest the outrage and to defend their homes and lives against the lynch gangs encouraged to spread their activities by the attitude of the Federal, state and county governments. Several deputies are quoted as saying: "There would be no interference with the mob either before or after."

Governor Miller of Alabama, from whose state Neal was kidnapped across the Florida line, after being handed over to the lynchers by Sheriff F. S. Byrne, in charge of the jail at Brewton, Ala., refused to raise a whisper of protest against the kidnapping, or against the action of Sheriff Byrnes in turning over the keys of the jail to the lynchers.

The increased activities of the fascist lynch gangs, inspired by the present widespread police raids and terror against militant Negro and white workers in the South, must sound the alarm to all friends of the Negro people and the Scottsboro boys to intensify the mass fight against lynching, for the lives and freedom of the boys, for the rights of the oppressed Negro people.

The Scottsboro boys, with their appeals to the U. S. Supreme Court already endangered by the disruptive tactics of Samuel Leibowitz, renegade defense attorney, and the Negro misleaders, William Davis, publisher of the Amsterdam News, Rev. Lorenzo King, etc., are today in the gravest danger from both the lynch courts and the fascist gangs. The increased terror against the Negro masses in the South is the first fruit of the traitorous alliance of Leibowitz, William Davis, etc., with the Southern ruling class lynchers.

Every organization of workers and intellectuals, every sincere opponent of lynching, should flood President Roosevelt and Governors Scholtz of Florida and Miller of Alabama with protests against Saturday's lynching, and demands for the immediate, unconditional and safe release of the Scottsboro boys and the safeguarding of the constitutional rights of the Negro people.

New York Evening Post

DEC 3 1934

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YOUNGSTOWN, O.
TELEGRAM

NOV 30 1934

GANGS AND MOBS

ATTORNEY GENERAL CUMMINGS points with legitimate pride to his department's record for catching and punishing kidnapers. His new division of investigation in one year has wiped out some of the nation's most ruthless gangs, cleaned up 27 notorious kidnap cases, obtained 3,531 criminal convictions. He will ask congress for 200 additional D. I. operatives to supplement his relatively small force. And he should have them.

While the federal government is meeting the challenge of criminal gangs, it is silent on an equal menace to law, the lynch mob.

A report has just been sent to Washington authorities on the lynching of Claude Neal, a Florida Negro, last month. This report, made by a white investigator, tells how an armed Florida mob invaded the neighboring state, took Neal from an Alabama jail and brought him back to Marianna, Fla. There, in the presence of thousands, he was subjected to almost unbelievable tortures and mutilations before death mercifully claimed him. This ghastly crime was the 17th lynching this year, the 94th in five years.

What does the government propose to do about such mobs?

On Dec. 10 Attorney General Cummings is calling a national conference on crime. He has been asked whether he will put before this conference the lynching problem, whether he will ask support for the Costigan-Wagner federal anti-lynching bill. He has not replied.

AKRON, O.
TIMES PRESS

NOV 30 1934

Gangs And Mobs

WITH legitimate pride Attorney General Cummings points to his department's record for catching and punishing kidnapers. His new division of investigation in one year has wiped out some of the nation's most ruthless gangs cleaned up 27 notorious kidnap cases, obtained 3531 criminal convictions. He will ask Congress for 200 additional D. I. operatives to supplement his relatively small force. And he should have them.

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COLUMBUS, O.
CITIZEN

NOV 30 1934

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Lynchings - 1934
&
Discussions.

White Press, Northern.

4566

INDIANAPOLIS, IND.
NEWS
FEB 20 1934

LYNCHINGS

Twenty-eight persons were lynched in eleven states last year, which arouses apprehension in the Federal Council of Churches of Christ in America. It is said to have been the worst year since 1922. In part, the report says:

> Until last year there were strong indications of a trend downward, but the spread of territory under sway of lynch law and the increase in the number of victims indicate that the mob spirit is again on a rising tide. For the first time in the history of the evil a Governor of a sovereign state publicly expressed his approval of the lynchers and his acquiescence in their crime before the fact. The sudden breakdown of the prosecution of the lynchers by the state authorities in another state probably increased the tide.

That the nation has been leading an abnormal existence may be one reason why passions overpower respect for orderly procedure. Mostly, the mobs act upon impulse and their success depends on the public officials they encounter. The right kind of sheriff, backed by such aid as he can summon, often balks a mob. Often public officials make little resistance and offer virtually no protection to prisoners.

Lynchings will decrease when the punishment becomes certain. Indiana took a step in the direction of fixing responsibility by empowering the Governor to remove the sheriff of any county where a lynching occurred and making it incumbent on such sheriff to prove that he was overpowered. Counties were made liable for damages where death or injury followed riots and lynchings, but so many suits grew out of a coal mining disturbances in southern Indiana that this part of the statute was eliminated.

BALTIMORE, MD.
MORNING SUN
FEB 22 1934

IT MAY BE A BIG DAY

The subcommittee of the Senate Judiciary Committee could not have selected a more appropriate case in which to study the breakdown of local criminal administration in lynching cases than the case of George Armwood, who was hanged and burned at Princess Anne. Here was a matter in which the Attorney-General of the State himself took charge of the collection of evidence bearing on the crime; a case in which the Governor even called out the National Guard to arrest the alleged offenders; but a case, nevertheless, in which the local prosecutor and the local courts have done nothing to bring any offender to book, beyond conducting a coroner's inquest and a grand jury investigation, both of which were utterly inconclusive.

What might have been done if the local authorities had been minded to act is indicated in the evidence which Attorney-General William Preston Lane yesterday laid before the Senate subcommittee. Mr. Lane managed to get a great deal of evidence bearing on the crime. Whether his evidence would have stood up in court is a matter of conjecture. Men accused of lynching are entitled to the fair trial which lynchers deny others. But all who are familiar with judicial procedure know that if the Attorney-General could get as much evidence as he seems to have got, the local authorities could have gathered more evidence. The lynchers, whoever they were, did their killing openly on the streets of Princess Anne. Or the local authorities could have used the evidence of Attorney-General Lane as a starting point had they desired to proceed in an effective manner.

There is no question before the Senate committee of fixing the innocence or the guilt of any of those who may be accused in connection with the Armwood lynching. The purpose of that investigation is to study the administration of local justice in lynching cases with a view to determining whether it is advisable for the Federal Government to take a hand. The showing so far made in connection with the Princess Anne case tends to strengthen the argument of those who insist that local law enforcement in lynching cases is futile and that the time has come for the assertion of Federal authority. *The Sun* is not prepared to accept this argument, but it recognizes that those who advance it are entitled to their day before the Senate. And from the start they have made with Mr. Lane it promises to be a big one.

BALTIMORE, MD.
MORNING SUN
FEB 21 1934

THE LYNCHING PROBE

It remains to be seen whether the hearings before a subcommittee of the Senate Judiciary Committee will develop a case for a Federal anti-lynching law strong enough to overcome the fundamental objections to the intrusion of the Federal Government into the field of local police regulation. But it does begin to look as if the hearings might develop some very interesting and suggestive information about certain lynchings, notably the lynching of George Armwood last fall at Princess Anne, Md. Senator Van Nuys, chairman of the subcommittee, seems disposed to go into the Armwood affair and its subsequent repercussions in a manner which may effect a thorough ventilation of its hitherto obscure aspects.

Such action on the part of the committee might have salutary results. A case study of the Armwood lynching and perhaps of a few other conspicuously atrocious outbreaks of the same sort, with a Senate committee room as a sounding board, might serve to arouse public sentiment on this issue as nothing else has ever done. A few individual students have, to be sure, made careful studies of certain lynchings, and the Southern Commission on the Study of Lynching has done important work in this field. But none of the studies heretofore made have achieved such prominence as to furnish motive power for any effective remedial action. If the Senate committee now throws its powerful searchlights into some of the cases which have heretofore baffled the law enforcement officers of the States, a way may be found to secure a more effective organization of society against mob outbreaks.

Even those who prefer, as we do, that the organization come through State agencies can have no objection to a study of the problem on the impartial level on which the Senate committee seems disposed to proceed. The State of Maryland has a serious problem on its hands in dealing with lynchers, and any help which Federal investigators may give in its solution ought to be welcome.

BALTIMORE, MD.
EVE. SUN
FEB 21 1934

Maryland Day

This is Maryland Day In Washington. Today the chief law officer of Maryland is before a Senate investigating committee explaining why people are allowed to make a monkey of the law in the Free State.

Attorney-General Lane is being questioned about two murders committed with the utmost publicity in the streets of two Maryland towns—murders for which no one has even been tried, much less punished.

The hearing is attended by representatives of all the great news-gathering organizations, and by Washington correspondents of many newspapers outside of Maryland. This State is receiving a bath of publicity such as rarely has been accorded it. Maryland will figure in headlines from Sandy Hook to the Golden Gate.

And a nice story it is, to be sure! Mr. Lane is a truthful man, to begin with, and today he is on oath. He is bound to tell the truth, and we all know what that truth is. He is forced to confess that in Maryland twice within the last three years bands of assassins have proved themselves stronger than the law. Twice they have killed in the public streets, with no effort at concealment, and twice the law has shown itself impotent to do anything about it. Maryland's civilization is going to be shown to be on a level, in this respect, with that of Albania, or interior China.

This is what the lynchers of Wicomico and Somerset counties have done for us. It is a pleasant gift they have given the rest of the State, isn't it?

DAYTON, O.
NEWS
FEB 18 1934

MEASURES TO AVERT LYNCHING

To the Editor of The News:

I am a southerner, and am partial toward the south in my thinking. But I realize that many southerners in their zeal for local and states rights do not see that lynching is a crime whose very nature calls for a wider jurisdiction in any legal authority that tries to cope with it than local authorities possess. Individual crimes can be dealt with and checked by the rest of the immediate community; but a crime of the community itself, involving the participation of most of the people of the community, or of their relatives and friends, cannot be effectively dealt with by the community itself. That is proven by the small number even of prosecutions, to say nothing or convictions, that have been attempted in the 5000 lynchings of the last 45 years.

Some of us continue to speak of lynching as if it were ordinary murder, or the breach of law by individuals or special small groups—forgetting that it is mass crime, as a rule, and compromises the legal powers of the community in most cases; and where it does not compromise the authorities, it may paralyze them by the force of public opinion, or of indifference, in the lynching community. Federal courts have wider jurisdiction, and the participants in mass violations of law can be taken out of their immediate community and tried by courts and juries who have less compromising interest in the outcome of the cases.

Even a state law against lynching is almost useless unless it carries with it the right of change of venue on the part of the prosecution. Such change of venue always meets with strong objection on the part of the defendants, as if their rights were being taken away, and as if they were being deprived of the advantage of a trial "by their peers." The federal courts have such wide-area jurisdiction as to make this change less necessary in the selection of juries and prosecutors.

Besides, there is much more respect for the federal authority, in the cases of such mass crimes; even when an anti-lynching law was being seriously debated in congress, lynching dropped in a single year from 60-odd to 30-odd, about 50 per cent.

Most southerners favor the federal law against kidnapers. Well, local communities can deal with kidnapers far more effectively than with lynchers. The kidnaper is never favored by the community where he operates; on the contrary, the local community is the very one most opposed to him. Lynching is the one awful crime in America which the states have shown their incapacity (and some of them their unwillingness) to deal with. It has no analogy to prohibition laws; liquor "crimes" were crimes only because of act of law; lynching is an evil and crime per se. Lynching classes with murder, arson, robbery.

WM. PICKENS.

Yellow Springs, O.

GRAND ISLAND, NEB.
INDEPENDENT

[illegible] 8 1934

Dynamics in Public Opinion.

When Governor Rolfe of California blurted out, after the lynching of two murdering kidnapers, that there would be no prosecution of the participants of the mob, or, if there was, he would free anyone convicted, he was roundly criticized by many. Many others there were who qualified their condemnation on the ground that he should not have said it because of his high office. Some there were who frankly approved his attitude. Governor Rolfe was merely saying what he elementarily felt. A kidnaper, and especially when the victim was so wantonly and cold bloodedly murdered, was not entitled to sympathy!

A few days later a mob at St. Joseph lynched a negro for attacking a woman and most bestially mistreating and ferociously slashing her. The authorities at once announced that there would be vigorous prosecution of the mob's participants. And there was. That is to say the prosecution was as thorough and as vigorous as it could be made when public sentiment was so completely in sympathy with the punishment, illegal as it was, that had been meted out. The twelve citizens who heard the testimony had listened attentively, and had weighed the evidence. But they required little time to bring in a verdict of dismissal. Public sentiment—in many cases the law—was averse to punishing any one who had assisted in lynching the atrociously cruel negro in question!

Since the repeal of the Eighteenth amendment the people of Texas are trying to enforce state prohibition through the agency of "the Dean law". Again it was proved that it is next to impossible to punish men for acts not in themselves offensive to public opinion—acts, indeed, more or less approved by the public. The Dean law is a state prohibition statute. Public opinion had most emphatically declared itself against prohibition. The Dean law itself had, thus, been measurably rejected when the state had voted for the repeal of national prohibition. When, therefore, some one caused a liquor arrest to be made, under state prohibition, an incident occurred, according to the Texas Weekly, "which delighted radical wets, antagonized radical drys and embarrassed those of us who do not feel radical one way or the other." This had happened: "It was found impossible to impanel a jury, prospect after prospect declining to convict on the grounds that the Dean law was not popular with a majority of the people."

And will it not be recalled that, last summer, when Governor Bryan refused to permit the federally legal 3.2 per cent law to become operative at once in Nebraska, but delayed its effectiveness for three months, jury after jury brought in verdicts of acquittal, the time record for deliberations varying only from 4 to 12 minutes or thereabout?

All of which clearly emblazons a public demand: Prompt, adequate justice by the courts when offenses are plainly violative of that which is demanded by public opinion; and just as prompt invalidation, or repeal carried to its logical conclusion, or even "nullification" if you please, after public opinion has once clearly made a decision.

Popular opinion is dynamic. It is varied in its expression. When not clearly defined it may long remain latent. Much depends, too, on the acts or conditions forming its basis. When offended and aroused it will assert itself with force, and sometimes with fury. Paris knows.

Daily Worker [illegible] 1934 New York

Lynchers Who Go Free

AS A direct result of the nation-wide indignation and mass protest actions mobilized by the Communist Party and other revolutionary organizations against lynching, it has lately become the custom among state governors to issue denunciatory statements after each new lynching. In these statements, the various heads of the state governments of the white ruling class have freely engaged in demagogic promises of "vigorous investigations" and "relentless prosecution and punishment" of the lynchers.

Actual results show that these promises are less than "scraps of paper." Not one lyncher has been punished! Known lynchers, arrested by the authorities under pressure of the mass anti-lynching protest movement, are regularly released. The latest case in point of the release yesterday by the State of Missouri of seven known lynchers of the mob which lynched Lloyd Warner, Negro youth, last Nov. 28. This, although one of the seven openly boasted of his part in the dastardly crime. The known lynchers of George Armwood were similarly released last December by the

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WHAT is the motive behind the demagogic denunciations of lynchings by the representatives of that same while ruling class which instigates and organizes the lynch terror against the Negro masses and their white allies? It is quite clear that these bourgeois officials and politicians are not opposed to lynching. State and county officials have been known to take part in actively organizing and even in the carrying out of lynchings.

The demagogic promises of the State officials are aimed at maintaining among the masses the illusions in the "integrity" and "justice" of the white ruling class government and its courts. By this maneuver, they seek to defeat and smash the mass protest movement which by its very vigor forces them to make a pretense of acting to punish the lynchers.

The unfailing regularity with which known and often self-confessed lynchers are acquitted by all-white juries of business men and rich farmers, or released by the authorities without even being brought to trial, must bring home to every worker, Negro and white, that lynching can be wiped out only by further intensifying the mass fight against lynching—not by dependence on the courts and officials of the white ruling class lynchers.

The mass fight against lynching and for defense of the Negro masses must be developed in every community, in every factory, in every union and other workers' organizations.

The carrying through of this task is the duty of every member of the Communist Party, the revolutionary trade unions, the League of Struggle for Negro Rights and the International Labor Defense, the leaders in the fight against lynching and for the nations liberation of the Negro people.

JOHNSTOWN, PA.
DEMOCRAT

MAY 18 1934

ANTI-LYNCHERS WILL MEET AT LIBRARY HALL

Session Is Sponsored By NAACP To Convene At 8 Tonight

Everything is ready for the Anti-Lynch Rally at 8 p. m. tonight in Cambria Library auditorium, according to Dr. B. K. Johnson, president of Johnstown Branch of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People, the organization sponsoring this community-wide meeting.

Principal speaker of the evening will be Homer L. Brown, Pittsburg attorney and president of Pittsburg Branch of the NAACP. Brown, a graduate of University of Pittsburg, has gained national recognition by being appointed a member of the National Legal Staff, of which Clarence Darrow, noted criminal lawyer, also is a member.

The meeting is designed to advocate passage of the Costigan-Wagner Anti-Lynch bill, pending in congress, which would make lynching a federal offense. Ten-minute addresses will be made by Atty. Elvin Teitelbaum, president of Jewish Brotherhood; James H. Brewer, general secretary of Y. M. C. A.; and the Rev. Ernest E. Swanston, president of Cambria County Welfare League.

Invocation will be pronounced by the Rev. S. B. Birchmore of Mt. Olive Baptist church. A musical program will include numbers by Mrs. Bessie Stewart, instrumental solos by the Flinn Studio of Music and piano selections by Marjory McDowell. Group singing will be led by Leroy Hankins.

Following the meeting, telegrams will be dispatched to President Roosevelt and Pennsylvania's senators asking that they support the bill.

All ministers and city leaders have been invited to attend. To the minister bringing the largest number of members from his congregation, a yearly membership in the NAACP will be awarded, it was declared. A silver offering will be lifted at the door, which will open at 7:30 p. m. Members of the Junior Branch of the NAACP will be in charge of ushering.

HARTFORD, CONN.
COURANT

DEC 5 1934

LYNCH LAW

It Should Be Considered in Forthcoming Conference

To the Editor of The Courant:—

I noticed with interest the slaying of "Baby Face" Nelson this week by government agents. It brought to my mind that the Dillinger and Nelson type of gangsters are not of the foreign born elements.

It is too bad that our Government is so interested in gangsters' crimes and not interested in lynching. Attorney General Homer S. Cummings, who is a native of Connecticut, is reported by the N. A. A. C. P as saying, that he was not interested in lynching. He made this announcement on last February on the eve of the hearing of the Federal Anti-Lynching Bill.

He has refused to place lynching on the program of the National Crime Conference to be held December 10 in Washington. It is too bad that this crime is not of interest to our Attorney General. Kidnaping was not considered a serious crime until the Lindbergh's baby was kidnaped. Maybe in the near future, something might arouse the Attorney General to see that lynching is placed on his program.

Lynching is just as serious to our national welfare as the Dillinger and Nelson type of gangster.

FRANK T. SIMPSON.

Hartford, Nov. 30, 1934.

Lynchings-1934
& Discussions.

White Press, Northern.

4567

WILKES BARRE, PA.
NEWS
JUN 27 1934

WOMEN AT LYNCHINGS

If women are going to use their women's rights to participate in mobs, as they appear to have done in the lynching of Son Griggs, a Negro at Kirbyville, Tex., is the victory of having a woman member in the cabinet proving worth the price?

Griggs had been arrested on charges of associating with a white woman, vagrancy and keeping a disorderly house. Informed that a mob was forming, the sheriff dispatched two deputies with the prisoner to Orange, for safe keeping. On the road the mob overtook them. One reads that "the crowd of men and women . . . threw a rope around Griggs' neck and ordered the officers to drive on." After the hanging the crowd riddled the body with bullets and then "tied it with another rope to the rear of an automobile, dragging it about the county until after midnight." The lynching, it appears, occurred not long after midday.

One should not too hastily judge the difficult racial conditions that exist in some areas. Such conditions, however, can not justify lapses by white men and women into barbarism. The law was in possession at Kirbyville. Do the people of Kirbyville mistrust their law? If they do, then they should reform it. They cannot successfully replace it with lynch law. California tried lynching as a deterrent of kidnaping. The man who then was California's governor praised the lynching and held it up as an example of direct action designed to put the fear of public revenge in every potential kidnaper's breast. But it was not long before California was the scene of another kidnaping.

There can be no successful law that is not civilized in design and equally civilized in enforcement. Lynch law is uncivilized and consequently must be regarded only as a makeshift to which resort must be taken in areas where society is not organized according to civilization's ordinary tenets. If the Kirbyville area of Texas is still an unorganized community, the Kirbyville lynchers, men and women, are of course, not subject to criticism.

Would Fire Lynch-Sheriffs

DOWN in Mississippi, where lynchings are about as common as the drought, a group of women met last week to begin a solution that seems to have been overlooked by the sociologists and legislators. These women suggest that a law be passed evicting from office any sheriff who allows a prisoner to be taken from his jail for lynching.

The idea is one which well merits thought. In some recent cases it may have been humanly impossible for the sheriff to prevent a crazed mob from forcing into the pail and taking the prisoner they wanted, but in many other cases, proper protection and action on the part of the law would have prevented another lynching—one to add to the tall total which brands us as barbarian and uncivilized in the eyes of the world.

The law should take its rightful course. The mob argues that the law is slow and does not always render justice and proper punishment for crimes against society. It is true that our legal procedure is not the best in the world, but mob justice is a mistake. The law reasons and then acts. Lynchers act and then, perhaps, pause to reason.

Less than a week ago a Negro was lynched in a Southern town merely because he was seen walkin in the company of a seventeen-year-old white girl. That is barbarism and not an isolated case. Many times in the past, mobs with a single mind and an unreasoning spirit, have stormed jails, taken prisoners not proved guilty and strung them to the nearest tree.

Lynchings came to national attention the last year through cases in Missouri, California, and Maryland. In two of these cases the lynchings could have been avoided by stronger action on the part of the sheriff

If sheriffs knew they would lose their jobs when they allowed persons to be taken from their cells and turned over into the hands of an angry mob, these cases might never have happened. The states involved would not have suffered the disgrace which piled upon them. The law is placing heavy penalties on kidnaping, criminal assault and other offenses which prompt lynchings. The representatives of the law must do their part in seeing that the law is carried out.

The passage of a law removing from office the men who are indirectly responsible for these lynchings by neglecting their duty would probably cut the number of lynchings in half. It would allow the law to take its course, and the country would show more evidence of civilization. Mistakes which cause innocent people to die and law to be flouted would be eliminated and justice would be no less effective.

SPRINGFIELD, MASS
REPUBLICAN
JUL 5 1934

A TEXAS LYNCHING

To the Editor of The Republican:—

A day or so after Congress adjourned without passing an antilynching law, Texans celebrated the event by lynching a young Negro. I am writing at Houston, Tex. The towns of Kirbyville, Orange and Newton, whose names figure in its news, lie east of Houston toward Beaumont. As nearly as I can gather from the sources of information so far, in the most prejudiced newspaper reports, the facts are somewhat like this:—

A young white woman, of the vagrant and wayward disposition, known to men, went to a colored laborer's house and went to bed; perhaps with the colored man, but there is no proof of that. At any rate, somebody "tipped off" the sheriff and he went there and found the girl in bed, resting peacefully and contentedly and evidently acting on her own free will.

This young woman is about 20 years old at least. She had been out with a white man the evening before the sheriff found her in the Negro's cabin. The white man had got her drunk and abandoned her by the roadside. Who knows but that she only sought shelter in the colored laborer's home? And in all evidence, whatever happened, she willingly participated in it.

The mob has sealed the Negro's lips with death, so that he cannot now tell his story, and nobody, so far, has let the girl do any talking at all for herself. A court and not a mob was the proper agency to inquire into this case and to deal with it. WILLIAM PICKENS.

Houston, Tex., June 29, 1934.

MILWAUKEE, WIS.
LEADER
APR 26 1934

DANISH PAPER SCORES LYNCHING

The Social-Demokraten, one of Copenhagen's leading newspapers, recently carried a three-column feature story on lynching in the United States. The article, by John Sperling, is based on material furnished by the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People. The illustrations accompanying the article consist of 12 small photographs of beautiful American Negro children and a large picture of the San Jose lynching.

AKRON, O.
BEACON JOURNAL
NOV 2 1934

ONLY DID THEIR DUTY

Editor Beacon Journal:

Having read your paper for a number of years and watched with interest your editorials on mob violence and lynching in this country and the latest one in Florida, I would like the space to express my opinion in your paper.

I have always had the opinion that the Beacon Journal was a fair and square paper, but disagree with the scorching criticism you have given the law officials whose unpleasant misfortune it became to be placed in this latest violence. I would like to say here, you have convicted these law officials wholly on circumstantial evidence.

Those law officials in all probability did their best and I am sure what they saw as their duty.

AKRONITE.

ONE LYNCHER WHO IS UNDER A DEATH SENTENCE.

Some years ago in an effort to obtain facts as to the effect of capital punishment as a deterrent to others, a census was taken among French criminals who had been sentenced to the guillotine. It was then found that every one of them had seen a public execution. The evidence was hardly conclusive because it might naturally be expected that public executions would attract the dregs of humanity. This is recalled by a recent murder trial at Shreveport, Louisiana. A white man was accused of having criminally assaulted and murdered a girl. He was convicted and sentenced to death. But before this happened the public had become so infuriated against him that an effort was made to lynch him. It was only repelled when National Guardsmen turned out to assist the sheriff and his officers. His neck was saved for the hangman.

The curious thing is that after his conviction the prisoner made a confession in the course of which he said that he was one of the mob which in 1915 had lynched Leo Frank, a young Jew from the North, in Georgia. This was a sensational affair. Young Frank, against whom there appeared to be strong prejudice long before he was suspected of any crime, was accused of murder, arrested, and after a veritable travesty of a trial, was convicted and sentenced to death. But his enemies were not content that the law should take its course, or they feared that the agitation begun in the north against the conviction might have its effect and he might escape. They were so far correct that the governor, who entertained doubts both as to his guilt and the fairness of the trial, commuted the sentence to life imprisonment. Then a mob seized Frank and after unmercifully beating him strung him up to a limb.

This lynching was impressed on our memory because a few days after it occurred a man came into The Mail and Empire office trying to sell us a photograph of Frank's body as it swung from a tree. It was a sight one would not soon forget. It appears also that when the murderer now awaiting death formed part of the mob that lynched Frank he was then an escaped prisoner from a Georgia prison camp to which he had been committed following a criminal assault. Of course it is nothing new to learn that a member of a lynching party is a criminal; all members of such mobs are criminals. The brutality that will attract a man to a lynching is the same brutality that will drive him to any other kind of horrible crime.

TRENTON, N. J.
STATE GAZETTE
APR 27 1934

On Both Ends of the Rope

It is unfortunate that the lesson of the evils of lynching, its barbarism and its inhumanity, cannot be brought home to the friends of this monstrous instrument of justice as impressively as it has been brought to the door of Fred Lockhart.

It was in 1915 that Lockhart had his first experience with lynching. At that time he was one of the leaders of a mob that took Leo Frank out of a jail in Marietta, Ga., killed him and burned his body.

Within the past few days he has had a somewhat different experience. He has found himself in the role filled so tragically nineteen years ago by young Frank. But while the crowd surged around a Louisiana jail crying for his life, troops forced the would-be lynchers back and assured him of a fair trial according to the orderly processes of law.

Lockhart now is in a position to discuss the subject of lynching from the angle of a participant in the crime and as one of its potential victims. It would be interesting to know to just what extent, if any, his views have been altered since 1915.

BRONX HOME NEWS
AUG 11 1934

Playwright Says Lynchings Due to Single Population

Philadelphia.—Lynchings, in the opinion of Wilson Jefferson, colored playwright, usually occur in sections where the population is purely American.

"You will notice," he said, "that lynchings, especially the one at Princess Anne, Md., was in a community where there has been little migration of foreign peoples from the time of its settlement."

Jefferson, who has been a clerk in the Department of Public Safety for the past 12 years, has just completed his fourth play.

"In areas where the foreign population has been increasing for generations, the native American stock has learned to understand and appreciate the differences in race and have thus gained a broader spirit of tolerance, which is directly opposed to lynchings.

"It is the lack of this leaven of tolerance, to my mind, which is chiefly responsible for the barbaric outbreaks in various sections of the nation."

Limited interests and diversions, Jefferson said, is another factor that is vital in forming mobs for lynchings.

"Bull-fighting in Spain, priest-hunting in the Middle Ages and burning of witches in New England were all forms of the same perverted idea," he continued. "Lynchings follow naturally such ideas, especially when men have no other outlets for their energy, and accounts for their participation in lynchings."

Idleness and the depression have merely aggravated the situation, he said.

"Politics have little to do with lynchings," he continued, "but frequently politics may enter into the question of arresting and convicting the leaders of mobs responsible for such actions."

BUFFALO, N. Y.
COURIER EXPRESS
AUG 1 1934

PROGRESS IN MISSISSIPPI

In the period from 1889 to 1932, lynchers killed 3,565 persons in this country. Of this total of victims, 692 were white persons, 2,873 were Negroes. Mississippi and Georgia shared the dishonor of being the states in which more than a fourth of the lynchings were committed. Each state was the scene of 453 lynchings. Georgia lynched 26 white persons and 427 Negroes, and Mississippi lynched 24 white persons and 429 Negroes. Only Louisiana, with 332 lynchings, and Texas, with 285 lynchings, even approached these appalling records.

One recalls these figures at this time because there will be held today in Mississippi a trial wherefrom impressive evidence may issue that the Magnolia State has turned over a new leaf. The trial will be that of four white men who, it is charged, beat to death a 70-year-old Negro for the alleged offense of talking disrespectfully to a white man over a rental agreement. Arrested amid what amounted to a public protest against their crime, the four men were placed in jail and have been held there without bond for trial today.

Public protest in Mississippi would not have stopped at protest if the case had been racially reversed! Moreover, it is yet to be seen what will be the jury's reaction to the evidence to be presented today. Regardless of such considerations, however, it is a step forward when, in a state where more than 400 Negroes have been lynched since 1889, the public objects to so-called "white man's justice" and the law brings to trial four men accused of committing murder in the name of such justice.

SPRINGFIELD, MASS.
REPUBLICAN
AUG 10 1934

The next compilation of lynchings must apparently record the first case in which a Negro has been lynched by Negroes. Unless later reports throw new light upon the affair, it must be set down that Grafton Page, the "bully" of his community, was lynched by members of his own race some 22 miles from Shreveport, La., for having insulted a young Negro girl. It cannot justly be argued, however, if the whites are the superior race setting their own standards of law and order, that this establishes an added justification for the lynching of Negroes by white men for alleged insults to white women.

NEW YORK DAILY NEWS
SEP 15 1934

A THOUGHT FOR LYNCHERS.

Brooklyn: O. K., Hoosier Mack—and every time one of us colored people is lynched in this white man's country Providence seems to knock off a large number of you white folks in some disaster like that of the Morro Castle. It begins to look as if the black man will be here a long time after you white folks are gone.

FRANCES R. PROPHET.

SAYS RADIO CAUSED SAN JOSE LYNCHING

California Priest at Hearing Asserts News Broadcast Added to the Mob.

Times

URGES EDUCATIONAL USE

10-3-34

Speaking for Jesuit Group, He Asks Share in Time—Assails 'Commercialism.'

new york n.y.

Special to THE NEW YORK TIMES.

WASHINGTON, Oct. 2.—An assertion that radio broadcasting led directly to the lynching of two men last year at San Jose, Cal., was made by Father Cornelium Deeney of the Jesuit University of Santa Clara when he spoke today before the broadcast division of the Communications Commission. He appeared with others to demand more time on the air for educational and religious purposes. 10-3-34

Father Deeney charged that radio had played a "very anti-social influence" in the lynching, and he understood that the "first inkling of it" came when "a Los Angeles station 400 miles away" announced that the mob was storming the jail doors with a battering ram. Hundreds of persons went to the scene as a result of this news, he said, continuing:

"I do not think that mob could have done its will unless aided by the radio. Without the radio there could have been only a small mob and those charged with defending the jail could have done so."

Father Deeney appeared for the Jesuit Educational Association, which represents twenty-seven universities and colleges such as Georgetown, Santa Clara, Loyola, Holy Cross and Fordham, and thirty-seven secondary schools. There are 60,000 students in these institutions.

"I hope for a new deal in radio broadcasting," he announced, adding that broadcasting was now "essentially monopolistic" and controlled almost entirely by commercial interests.

"The most powerful agency for the dissemination of truth cannot be used for that purpose in the United States," he went on. "The radio invades the home. You can avoid the movies, but the radio demands entrance into the homes and into the minds of the children.

"The primary function of the radio should not be the object of selling some article for profit."

He wished to "protect actual investments" in radio stations at St. Louis University and Loyola, and possible future investment by other schools of his organization.

Using some of the time granted at the hearing to the National Committee on Education by Radio, he, like that association, did not ask for a specific allocation of air space but for a "reasonable share."

Dr. James N. Rule, Superintendent of Education for Pennsylvania, pleaded for available time for his State's Department of Public Instruction.

Dr. William John Cooper, former Federal Commissioner of Education, appeared for the National Committee on Education.

S. Howard Evans of The Ventura (Calif.) Free Press asserted that broadcasting was now under a "self-censorship of radio stations in an effort to keep the good-will of the government so that their licenses will be periodically renewed."

BUFFALO, N. Y.
NEWS
OCT 31 1934

THE LYNCHING EVIL

Those sensitive Americans who have been horrified at the scenes of lynch law recently enacted in Florida will be annoyed to learn that the present federal kidnaping statute is not inclusive enough to permit the members of the mob to be indicted. The victim who was so swiftly snatched from his Alabama prison and hustled across the state line was not held for ransom and the law which Senator Roscoe C. Patterson of Missouri fathered had in mind an abduction for pecuniary gain only.

The lynching bee in Florida was held to punish a particularly revolting crime, and there will be many in the South to condone it, even though enlightened leaders of church and state inveigh against such heathenish practices. There can be no doubt, however, that local public opinion was strongly behind the men who took the law into their own hands. The sheriff was conveniently absent from his post of duty and the governor heard no cry for help until after the deed had been accomplished.

This most recent assault upon the dignity of the law may provoke a revival of the federal anti-lynching bill which has at times been advocated by the socially minded. It is probable this effort to protect law and order in Dixie will be hotly resented in those regions where an extralegal hanging is considered justifiable. Where, public opinion supports lynching as a corrective to crime, the way of the federal enforcement officer would be made perilous in the extreme. A long and patient educational process is the practicable way of combating the evil.

Teachers' Association, National
Education - 1930

Lynchings—1934
Discussions.

White Press, Northern.

4568

PROVIDENCE, R. I.
NEWS

OCT 29 1934

ANOTHER LYNCHING

If, as is charged, the lynching at Jackson County, Florida, of Claude Neal, a Negro, was an interstate crime, the Department of Justice should take a swift and a heavy hand in dealing with those responsible for it. Nor is there any doubt that it will do so; the department, in recent months, has given one proof after another of the vigor and efficiency with which it goes about vindicating the law.

If, on the other hand, this was not an interstate crime, the main responsibility lies with the Governor of Florida. There is no conceivably valid excuse for his not proceeding inexorably to round up the leaders of the lynching mob and to bring them to the bar of justice. Unfortunately it will be one thing to bring them there; it may be quite another to secure the punishment of the guilty. Where the mob was so great, the intimidation of jurymen will be correspondingly great. But the governor should go to the limit of his authority and his power. Neal may or may not have been guilty of the crime with which he was charged, but the seizure of the right to punish him by a bloodthirsty mob is an offence which no civilized community should tolerate.

Lynching is the crime which every hostile critic of this country brings up when h wants to paint the United States in the ugliest colors. It has become less frequent i recent years, but there can be no public satisfaction until it is utterly wiped out.

BALTIMORE, MD.
EVENING SUN

OCT 27 1934

Ha, Ha!

The lynching in Greenwood, Fla., has certain characteristics which distinguish it from the conventional lynching—say, our own Salisbury lynching—in which a howling mob drags a half-dead Negro through the streets, strings him up, cuts him down, burns the body, takes souvenirs and goes home—filled with virtue.

The Florida lynching was different. It was worse.

Reflect on the facts. The word that a lynching was imminent got around. A huge mob gathered for the fun. The ring-leaders then announced that the lynching would not take place before such a large mob. A member of the Florida Legislature rose and delivered what was called a "humorous address," promising quick and effective action when the crowd had dwindled somewhat. Law and order at lynchings, you might almost call it.

The crowd began to disperse, but many lingered on for the fun. So then—ha, ha!—the ringleaders sneaked the Negro back into the woods and had their lynching all to themselves.

Did they do this because they could squeeze a little more fun out of their lynching by kidding the crowd along a bit? That is not clear. But this is clear at least: Down in Florida the active lynchers can't even be honest with a lynching mob.

MILWAUKEE, WIS.
LEADER

OCT 30 1934

Mob Savagery

Another lynching in the south; this time in Florida. Savagery to the last degree.

Some years ago there was a decrease of lynching. Times were somewhat better than they are now, there were a few jobs to be picked up in the north, hence there was an exodus of Negroes from south to north. The southern ruling class became worried lest it might lose its cheap labor. It therefore began to soft-pedal on the subject of lynching. Southern papers of course followed the hint of the ruling class and began to discourage mob vengeance. This aided in decreasing the number of lynchings.

Then there was the threat of a federal anti-lynching act. The south was Democratic. The Republicans were in control of the federal government. While the Republicans were no better than the Democrats, yet, as a matter of party punishment, they might have enacted a federal law against lynching. At least some of them threatened to do so. This also helped to decrease the number of these acts of barbarism.

But these two influences have now been removed. There are no longer any jobs in the north to lure the southern Negroes away from the south. The Democrats are in control of the federal government and are not likely to do anything which would offend the tender (?) sensibilities of the southern ruling class. There is an increase of lynching.

The north is not free of mob violence either, although it is at its worst in the south. There was a savage lynching in California.

Savagery goes with a brutal social order. The present conditions do not make for the elimination of the beast in man. Men and women who possess finer qualities have a deep longing for a more just social order in which the better nature of man will have an opportunity to unfold.

In the meanwhile the federal anti-lynching bill should be revived and enacted into law.

ROCHESTER, N. Y.
JOURNAL-POST & EXPRESS

OCT 30 1934

Ministers Protest Florida Lynching

Ministerial Association of Rochester today was on record as condemning the lynching of Claude Neal, Negro, near Greenwood, Fla., as an un-American deed and an instance of mob brutality spirit which should be suppressed.

Protest against the lynching was registered at a meeting of the association yesterday in Colgate-Rochester Divinity School.

The resolution deplored that "the governor of the state, sheriffs, nor the United States government was powerful enough to prevent the lynching," despite that plans for the outrage were publicly known twelve hours in advance.

The resolution concluded:

"As ministers who teach the Gospel of Christ to be that of love, rather than lawlessness, respect for person and property, rather than of prejudice and hatred, we feel that all acts of lynching are not only contrary to these principles, but breed class hatred an encourage un-American doctrines."

Nation

11-7-34

Nov. 7, '34 no 3873

THE lynching of Claude Neal in the neighborhood of Marianna, Florida, on October 26, after he had been taken from jail in Brewton, Alabama, was well attended by men, women, and children in arms, not to mention an orator who described himself as a member of the legislature. Nor was this surprising, for at least two newspapers, the Marianna *Times-Courier* and the Dothan (Alabama) *Eagle,* had thoroughly advertised the affair, even quoting a deputy sheriff as saying that in his opinion the mob would not be molested either before or after the killing. The Governor of Georgia, urged to send the National Guard to prevent what everyone in the State but himself seemed to know would happen, explained that he had consulted with the local authorities, who had assured him they could "take care of any situation that might arise." How well they did so is indicated by the reported remark of still another deputy sheriff that if the mob was determined to kill the Negro, he knew of "no way to prevent it." Neal was accused of the rape and murder of a young white girl, and so large was the crowd in front of her father's house, where the lynching had been planned, that a picked group of the town's elect took the Negro off into the woods, mutilated his body with knives either before or after death, and brought the corpse in for the crowd to see, after which it was hanged to a tree in front of the county courthouse. And this was entirely fitting. For the body of the Negro became thereby the symbol of justice and decency which were destroyed by violence in that little Florida town. The whole revolting affair will give a decided impetus to the movement for a federal anti-lynching law.

BRIDGEPORT, CONN.
POST
OCT 28 1934

Florida Disgraced

The lynching at Marianna, Florida, was as shocking a defiance of decent and orderly government as anything which has occurred in many years. Northerners who plan to go to Florida for their winter vacation ought to let the natives know what they think of such lynching parties. Maybe their disapproval will have a sobering influence.

Two states were involved in this shocking act. The mob took its victim from a jail in Alabama where he had been removed for safe keeping. He was then openly and casually transported over the border into Florida where the mob, with a leisure brutality quite hard to describe, proceeded to torture and mutilate him. His lifeless body was finally left hanging in front of the courthouse as a final gesture of defiance.

The governments of two states turned a deaf ear to all pleas to take steps to prevent this butchery. The victim may or may not have been guilty of the crime charged—the murder of a white woman—but he was denied every right which the constitution is supposed to guarantee to a man who is charged with crime.

But the most disheartening phase of these lynchings is that in some parts of the South they have ceased to have all real connection with the administration of justice, even rough and brutal justice and have become purely sadistic exhibitions at which depraved spectators sate their worst impulses by the satisfaction of seeing a human being publicly tortured. A mob bent on slaughter seldom stops for any nice question of whether or not its victim is really guilty. It wants blood and finds a sadistic enjoyment in brutality.

New York World Telegram

OCT 30 1934

Women at Lynchings Are Weak Followers

Instead of Forcing Men to Abandon Horrible Acts They Join in Grim Orgy.

By EVELYN SEELEY.

WOMEN who go to lynchings should be sent back to the kitchen, where they belong. In fact, the kitchen is too good for them.

Equal rights have gone too far when women construe them as equal rights to shoot, torture and mangle.

A news report of the lynching of a Negro in Marianna, Fla., says:—

"The crowd first gathered in front of the farm home of George Cannidy, father of the slain girl, in response to messengers who had said 'there will be a lynching' at the Cannidy home.

Evelyn Seeley.

"IT WAS MADE UP OF MEN, WOMEN, CHILDREN AND BABIES IN ARMS."

Yes, the women were there, and they brought the children. Some mothers held their youngsters high so they could see all that happened, in the manner of the woman in Reginald Marsh's recent cartoon in the New Yorker saying, "It's her first lynching."

The children saw all the horror and the violence, and the women took part in it.

"All the white folks" were invited; so nobody stayed at home. By the time they got to Cannidy's nobody knew whether the Negro had been shot to death and mutilated afterward or had died in agony from his wounds. So at Cannidy's the men, women and children went at it all over again, pumping more shots into the body and making it a sieve of knife wounds. Then they dragged it into town and strung it up for all to see.

No, the women didn't miss a thing!

* * *

Women Presented Horrible Sights.

YOU think this was down in the benighted South; these were inferior people, not like those you know, or this was just a newspaper story. So you put down the paper and forget.

But women in far different circumstances were true sisters to these at the Holmes-Thurmond lynching in San Jose last November.

Their faces in the photographs were something to see. Their eyes were shining with crazy excitement; their lips were distorted into wild orgiastic grins; they almost drooled. Yet they wore smart enough hats and coats; their hair showed signs of having been nicely groomed before it got rumpled in the crowd. They were, in fact, housewives, school teachers, clerks, women known as respectable in the community.

It happened twenty-five miles from where I lived, in a beautiful, verdant valley populated by so-called civilized individuals who have schools and theaters and scores of churches.

A newspaper friend who was rushed to the scene said to me, "Don't ever go to a lynching if you can avoid it. You can't forget it; you wake up nights and see it over and over. It isn't the lynched bodies that keep you awake thinking; it's the crowd, lusting for blood. And worst of all is seeing the women there."

* * *

Women Sank to Men's Level.

SUPPOSE, when these lynch-bound men of Marianna set out they had shut the kitchen door on their wives, commanding, "You stay there; where I'm going is no place for you." And suppose then the wives had opened the door, grabbed back their men, and said, "You stay here, too. If it's no place for me it's no place for you."

And if the men got away and finally came home again, their hands bloody from the lynching, suppose the wives had said, "All right, now; you can stay out. No lynchers wanted here!"

The women of Marianna and the women of San Jose, enjoying their equal rights to stab and shoot and torture, and to remember it in horror ever after, have only sunk to the level of the lowest male.

Brooklyn, N. Y. Eagle
OCT 31 1934

Sees Strong Federal Law Needed To Curb Lynching and Mob Violence

Editor Brooklyn Daily Eagle:

Lynching has been prevalent in the United States since the reconstruction period following the Civil War, notwithstanding the penal law. The mob spirit has prevailed and been allowed to grow until it has permeated all sections of our nation. There can be no excuse for a people violating and repudiating their own statutes, much less going beyond the law and committing murder on a defenseless people.

Free America is only half free, especially in the Southern States where most of the lynching occurs. This condition has been promulgated on the theory that the Negro man has no right which the white man is bound to respect. A false conception of humanity and an utter disregard for our constitution.

Kidnaping is a thousand times more heinous than most of the crimes for which Negroes are lynched; and yet, so far as I know, not one "neck-tie party" has strung up a kidnaper, except in California. The law has been allowed to deal with all cases, aided by the Federal Government. Criminals have been forced to surrender or shot down.

Lynching was prevalent many years before kidnaping and nothing was done about it. It remained for a little child to arouse the nation to the laxity of laws and their enforcement. A law was enacted immediately by Congress to curb kidnaping with Federal jurisdiction. I appeal to all fair-minded citizens to use their influence with their Congressmen to enact a Federal law against lynching. J. WARREN FOSTER.

Brooklyn, Oct. 28.

Lynchings-1934 & Discussions.

White Press, Northern.

RENO, NEV.
GAZETTE

FEB 12 1934

LYNCHERS GO UNPROSECUTED

AFTER ALL the publicity of what it intended to do to punish members of the mob that lynched a Negro youth at St. Joseph, Mo., on November 28, Missouri has thrown up its hands and will do nothing more. The lynching was called by the grand jury "an inhuman orgy" when it indicted seven men, and when the governor and other public men denounced the affair in unmeasured terms.

The trial of the first of the seven men arrested as leaders of the mob ended in his acquittal by the jury, though the prosecuting attorney declares that the state's case against this man was its strongest. Failing to convict him, he considers it useless to place any of the others on trial and the prosecution against all of them is ended. "The jury," said he, "was a group of good, representative citizens of Buchanan county and, in view of the verdict, it is useless to spend any more in prosecuting the cases."

However, no other verdict under the circumstances could have been expected. The youth was accused of criminal attack and was lynched by a crowd of seven thousand s. No hand was lifted to rescue him and the county officers remained out of sight. Obviously public opinion, as it existed in St. Joseph, a century-old town of Southern and early Western traditions, supported the mob and it was against this underlying sentiment that the district attorney had to contend. In effect it was the lynched man who was on trial in Buchanan county, not the alleged mob leader, and the jury found him guilty.

OISE, IDAHO
ILY STATESMAN

MAR 2 1934

Fallacies About Lynching

A number of aged fallacies in regard to lynchings are exploded by a recent report of the Washington research bureau, which prints figures to prove that criminal attacks upon women are not the principal cause, as is generally supposed.

In the 40-year period between 1889 and 1929 only one-sixth of the victims lynched were accused of the crime. More than one-third were accused of murder in which the attack element was not involved; accusation of minor crimes was responsible for the rest.

It is also interesting to note that the proportion of lynchings in the so-called black belt, where the negro population is more than half of the total, has been considerably lower than in the counties with less than one-fourth negro population. This constitutes irrefutable proof that lynchings do not increase proportionately with the proportion of negro population and blasts another popular fallacy.

◇ ◇ ◇

Such facts have been presented to the senate judiciary committee which has been taking testimony on the Costigan-Wagner anti-lynching bill. The measure subjects to a fine up to $5000 or imprisonment for five years, or both, any state or local officer who is charged with the protection of an individual and who fails to make "all diligent efforts" to protect him from injury of a mob. Besides this, any county in which a person is lynched would be fined $10,000.

The measure is plainly one of those which would put the federal government in the position of usurper of states' rights and it is difficult to understand how any intelligent person could argue in favor of its constitutionality.

More than that, it would not prevent lynching. It is doubtful whether it would have any effect whatsoever upon the crime. Nearly all states now have anti-lynching laws. If they have not, the law against murder can always be made to apply to lynching cases. The trouble is that jurors will not convict in lynch cases; why is there any more reason to expect that they would convict in a federal court than in a state court?

Such legislation will never cure the evil and it is absurd even to propose it.

BULLETIN
BEND, ORE.

FEB 20 1934

LYNCH LAW

There is no way of telling how the majority of the people felt about the lynching at San Jose last November. The newspapers of the country, however, condemned the action of the mob. Even though the men who were hanged to the tree out there in the park had confessed the papers insisted that there should have been a trial and all the forms of law complied with. President Roosevelt took the same view in an address before a religious organization in Washington and he castigated Governor Rolph, though not by name, for his part in the affair.

These facts are recalled as we ponder the air-mail investigation and all that has come out of it. Try as we will we cannot get away from the thought that there is a great similarity between this Washington business and the California lynching—except, of course, in the former we find the President in a position different from that he took on the lynching. In the matter of the lynching he thought the law should be recognized.

Let no one read thus far and hastily conclude that this newspaper condones wrong doing or looks tolerantly on underhand practices, official malfeasance or governmental graft. On the contrary there is almost no one for whom we have a greater contempt than the official who betrays his trust. Likewise we detest the so-called big business growths that batten on privilege, special favor, manipulation and deals that will not stand the light of day.

We hold no brief for the air-mail companies but we believe that neither the President nor his postmaster general have any right to lynch them. As to some, it may be said, the evidence secured amounted to a confession of wrong-doing. Very well, if there was no doubt of the fact some may say that these companies were properly lynched but were all the defendants in the same class? Lindbergh said "No" and asked for a trial but the request was of no avail. The noose had been tied and the rope was over the branch.

There was a noose, too, for Lindbergh, himself, and for ex-Postmaster General Brown. Feet of clay, the Oregonian says Lindbergh has because he took pay for his services from an air-mail company. Lindbergh waved aside the millions that might have been his for advertising stunts, vaudeville contracts and other non-flying activities. Instead he devoted himself to his profession and took pay and now they are all for lynching him.

Lindbergh offered to testify before the air-mail committee weeks ago. Walter Brown has for long been hoping to be called. Only yesterday did the committee begin hearing him. As this is written we have no idea what his testimony has been. If it appears that he has done wrong we shall gladly join in passing sentence but we do protest the sentence passed before even his trial began.

For the sake of the argument let us agree that all the charges are true and that the air-mail companies made many millions of dollars. Have they made more than the Long regime in Louisiana or more than Tammany has cleaned up in New York? If the administration is out to purify conditions why not do something about these festers? These bandits took and gave nothing back. The air-mail people at least gave a service that even the boasted army flying corps cannot duplicate.

But again we say that we do not condone anything wrong that has been done. Let the guilty be punished. But in the name of fairness and honesty let punishment be after trial and not before, after all the facts have been brought out and not just a few and after partisanship has been adjourned.

Lynching is as bad in Washington as in San Jose.

NEW YORK
WORLD – *Telegram*

MAR 19 1934

Lynching in America, Naziism in Germany.

By Anti-Nazi.

The American Citizens League of Ohio (all German names headed its list) sent around a protest against the Hitler "trial." Their sole argument against it was this:—"What would America say if Germany tried to criticise the lynchings over here?"

Well, one wouldn't expect a Hitlerite to realize the difference, so let us tell them. The difference is simply this, that in America lynching is not a governmental policy; it is a crime against the law. But in Germany it is the governmental policy, carried out by government agents.

St. George, S. I.

New York Evening Post

APR 3 1934

U. S. LYNCH BAN IS ASKED

National legislation to curb lynchings is asked in a resolution passed by the executive committee of the Federal Council of Churches of Christ in America, according to the council president, the Rev. Dr. Albert W. Beaven. Lynching "has become a national shame," it says.

NEWS
Princess Anne Md.
FEB 10 1934

ALL QUIET

The Circuit Court of Somerset county was, of course, honored by the presence of Baltimore reporters at its sessions this week. They were all brilliant journalists and a murder trial is important news, even if it is ugly news. They were brilliant journalists of the kind who reported that the Princess Anne court room was cleared of reporters during the trial of Sam Jones for the murder of Mrs. Brumbley. They were brilliant journalists of the kind, who, scenting another lynching, wished to be present and socome to Princess Anne.

But the brilliant journalists might have taken a lesson from Sam Jones himself, whose interest in a lynching was a great deal more vital than theirs. Sam Jones also came to Princess Anne. He stood trial for life, before a court in which he had faith, before a jury of Somerset citizens, before a Somerset judge, accused and defended by Somerset attorneys, and before a crowded court room filled with Somerset people.

We hope the Baltimore press will appreciate the lesson Sam Jones has taught them. We hope that all the people, all the preachers, all the government officials who have spoken of us as barbarous and uncivilized will read the story of Sam Jones trial.

BALTIMORE, MD.
EVE. SUN
MAR 17 1934

Delayed Justice

One of the favorite arguments of those who attempt to excuse lynching is delayed justice. They labor ~~the point~~ that persons guilty of crimes escape punishment for months because of the delays of the law. Delay in the Euel Lee case has been cited again and again as explanation for the frenzy of the mob which perpetrated the Armwood lynching orgy at Princess Anne and of the earlier Salisbury lynching.

The argument gives special interest to a case which was brought to trial in Salisbury yesterday. One Louis Andrews, white, was sentenced to ten years in the State Penitentiary for assault with intent to kill.

It was testified that Andrews shot and seriously wounded a former fiancee, Miss Margaret Humphries.

When? The crime, it seems, was committed last November. For four months Andrews has been held in jail awaiting trial. And there is nothing to indicate that the citizens of the Eastern Shore made any clamor against the delay. There was no mob, no attempted lynching, not even a protest.

Andrews is a white man.

WILMINGTON, DEL
JOURNAL
MAR 15 1934

LYNCHING IN 1933

From the ~~Elkton Wing~~

Eleven States were guilty of lynching in 1933. Only five States of the forty-eight have no such blot on their escutcheon since the Federal Union was formed—Massachusetts, New Hampshire, Vermont, Rhode Island, and Connecticut—all in New England. Two others, Maine and New Jersey, have not had a lynching in forty-eight years; and five more have a clean slate for a quarter century: Delaware, Iowa, Michigan, Nevada, Wisconsin. Twenty-four States, including Illinois, Ohio, Indiana, North Dakota, California, West Virginia and Kansas, have had this stain within the past ten years. Here is evidence enough that the crime is not peculiar to one section. It is a flare-up of embers that smoulder on every hearth, and that only await a sufficient gust of passion to fan them into devouring flame. The South is more conscious of the presence of this dangerous tinder than are some other sections.

In the South are hosts of good men and women who are alive to the menace of such a sudden conflagration, and who are using every opinion-making influence, school, press, pulpit, public forum, to prevent the lurking catastrophe. Those in the North dwell in a sense of security because of the comparative infrequency of the crime. It is a fool's security, so long as the passion which bursts the bonds of law is still harbored in human hearts. The shame of California shows how real this danger is. The outspoken or half-veiled approval of Governor Rolph's attitude toward the lynchers shows how confused is the moral sense of the public in matters. There are certain atrocious crimes—such as the kidnaping of children—which test to the utmost the self-restraint of the community. It is important that this quality of self-restraint be cultivated and that those who administer justice through the courts should demonstrate by their vigilance and swiftness of action that the law may be depended on to punish the criminal. It is the slow foot of justice that gives speed to the mob.

Beacon
Lambertville N.J.
MAR 29 1934

In a mid western city a white girl was criminally attacked by a negro. In a short time the jail was stormed and he was lynched. A storm of protest against ~~the lynchers~~ arose. It developed that a few weeks previously the mob victim had attacked a girl and the law did nothing about it but hushed it up.

Last week in Kansas iCty, Missouri, a bank messenger was shot and killed while delivering securities to the post office. It developed that one of the men charged with the crime had shot a man and killed him a few months before and nothing was done about it.

This is the law that we are asked to respect. If the law and officers of the law desire that law to be respected, something must be done to merit respect. The mere fact that it is the law is not going to insur respect on the part of the people. Respect for law must be earned and deserved by the law the same as it must be earned and deserved by the individual.

CINCINNATI, O.
POST
FEB 16 1934

OUR LIBERTIES

AMERICA is losing too many civil liberties—and not knowing it.

"At no time," says the annual report of the American Civil Liberties Union, "has there been such widespread violation of the workers' rights by injunctions, troops, private police, deputy sheriffs, labor spies and vigilantes."

More than 15 strikers have been killed, 200 injured and hundreds arrested since last July. Some 40 injunctions have been issued against labor leaders. The National Labor Board has "lacked the will or the power to overcome the defiance of employers." Only where labor has been well organized have its legal rights been respected.

Last year 24 Negroes and four whites were killed by mobs. California, whose governor keeps Mooney and Billings in jail and "gloated" over a double lynching, heads the Union's blacklist. Alabama, Maryland's eastern shore, the mine and factory regions of Pennsylvania and Illinois are described as freedom's burial grounds.

The Union agrees that the Roosevelt leadership has been a liberalizing leaven. Its Immigration and Indian Bureaus, its State Department and some other agencies display a new spirit. But where property interests are directly affected its influence has been least effective. One wonders what would have happened had a reactionary government been in charge of reconstruction.

POTTSTOWN, PA.
MERCURY
FEB 28 1934

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Lynchings-1934
Discussions

White Press, (Northern)

4570

Judge Lynch and John Law

RECENT events in Maryland, Missouri, Tennessee and California give painful timeliness to a book, "Lynching and the Law," written under the auspices of the Southern Commission on the Study of Lynching. The author, James Harmon Chadbourn, is an assistant professor of Law in the University of North Carolina. He has made a survey of the reported lynchings and attempted lynchings of the last forty years and of the steps taken both to forestall threatened lynchings and to punish the perpetrators of those accomplished. He analyzes legislation adopted or suggested toward both these ends and formulates model laws on the various subjects considered.

There are three ways in which threatened lynchings have been averted: by prompt use of the militia, by removal of proceedings to another county and by assurance of speedy trial. While Professor Chadbourn advocates laws to ensure more frequent use of these devices, he recognizes that at best they have often proved ineffectual. A speedy trial is sometimes a lynching under the aegis of the law; calling the militia may be merely public confirmation of the mob's determination that the accused shall die. It is true that some lynchings may be prevented by methods such as these, but it is only infrequently that a fair trial follows the resort to them. Even the change of venue seems a mere formula unless the change is to a community quite different in character. And sometimes the very demand for a change has provoked a lynching.

Rare as the resort to punitive measures has been, they seem more encouraging as preventive of future lynchings than the direct method of prevention just described. The statistics relied on, to be sure, are open to criticism, for the number of instances has been very small. But such as they are, the statistics indicate a decided falling off in the number of lynchings in communities in which perpetrators have been convicted, officers removed or the community fined. And even when the lynchers have not actually been punished, the mere institution of punitive proceedings appears to have had an ameliorative result.

Probably the most effective measure, because the easiest to administer, is community punishment. In eleven states, counties or municipalities are subject to fines or suits for damages for the benefit of dependents of persons killed by a mob, and in some of these states for the benefit of those injured. Professor Chadbourn has gathered some curious instances of the application of these laws which show how little can be foretold of how a law can come to be applied. In one Kansas case recovery was allowed under such a law because a man was run over by a wagon in which some merrymakers were parading against their will a newly wed couple.

Another measure which in rare instances has been effective is the removal of an officer for failure to prevent a lynching. Nine states have laws on this subject. The procedure in most cases, however, is cumbersome since it requires either conviction or impeachment. Simplification is essential along the lines Professor Chadbourn suggests in his model statute. Existing laws for the punishment of individual participants are adequate, but it is seldom possible to administer them on account of the unwillingness of people to turn state's evidence. Even when witnesses appear before the grand jury, experience shows such universal lapses of memory at the trials that convictions are rare.

The outlook for preventing lynchings by improvements in legal machinery remains dark. The mere fact that a study such as Professor Chadbourn's has been conducted and financed by Southerners is, however, encouraging. It indicates a searching of heart which might eventually have wide consequences.

Lynching

Why not make in Mexico and show all over Latin America a cinema based on a typical U. S. lynching, with no ferocious detail or bestial fact omitted (see p. 14)?

In Mexico City this question was put last week by urbane, sardonic *El Excelsior*, newsorgan of Mexico's ruling class. "Here is a splendid opportunity for our infant film industry," declared *El Excelsior*, tongue in cheek. "A splendid opportunity also to effect that international reciprocity between Mexico and the U. S. that one hears so much about! What spectacle could be more imposing, more instructive or more edifying than a multitude of 7,000 blond men (supercivilized, of course) lynching an unhappy 19-year-old youth to whom had been attributed an ugly crime, the proofs of which were lacking?

"Our Mexican hero could make his appearance on the scene among the tanks and bombs; he would disperse the multitude and single-handed save the Negro from the lynchers, and, furthermore, prove him innocent because the crime had been committed by another.

"But, alas, although treaties permit the filming of such a picture, it would cost much money. Because we are poor we do not have international reciprocity in the cinema. But neither (and this is a compensation) do we have lynchings."

. . .

In London, the *Daily Express*, which last summer protested what it called exaggerated reports in the U. S. Press of London's unemployment riots, last week printed a cable from New York: "A great exodus of Negroes from the towns and villages of America's race-prejudiced Southern States began today. Terrified by the outbreak of lynching following the condonation of mob violence by Governor Rolph of California, America's vast population of colored folk are hurriedly leaving their homes and setting off in their second-hand cars and old farm wagons for—they know not where. So electric is the atmosphere, so certain is a further outbreak of lynching, that the Negro dare not stay in one place."

The *Daily Herald* quoted a "Southern authority" in Washington as having forecast "a new civil war . . . a massacre of unarmed blacks by armed whites mad with blood lust."

Other London papers made front page news of the U. S. lynchings, discreetly played down last week's developments in England's current crime stories—the kidnapping and murder at Leicester of 3-year-old Derek Robb, an attempt to kidnap a 7-year-old schoolboy at Northampton.

. . .

In Lima, Peru, the censor withheld from inflammable Peruvians news of last week's mob activities at Salisbury, Md.

. . .

When lynched at San Jose, Kidnapper Holmes was naked. Kidnapper Thurmond had lost his trousers. Although the Press was unanimously outraged over the incident, few papers chose to print the photographs of the victims as a Horrible Example. Among those that did were the Oakland *Post-Enquirer*, Santa Cruz *News* and *Sentinel*, Los Angeles *Herald & Express*, Medford (Ore.) *Mail-Tribune*, Prescott (Ariz.) *Journal-Miner*, Centralia (Wash.) *Chronicle*, Oklahoma City *News*, Knoxville (Tenn.) *Journal*, Gastonia (N. C.) *Gazette*, Anderson (S. C.) *Independent*, Johnson City (Tenn.) *Staff News*, Kingston (N. C.) *Free Press*, New York City *Daily News*, *Mirror*, *American* and *Journal*. The Los Angeles *La Opinion* painted shorts on Holmes, lengthened Thurmond's shirt. The Newark, N. J., *Star Eagle* painted trousers on Holmes.

HERALD

AN 7 1934

The Lynching Problem

To the New York Herald Tribune:

I am a Negro. I was born south of the Mason and Dixon Line. I wish to write as an ordinary American citizen. Like most Americans of this age, I have heard the roar of the mob. I have seen machine guns repel mobs. I was at the second battle of Lexington (Kentucky) in 1919. As a boy I trudged to school one morning over a bridge beneath which hung the body of a Negro who had been taken from a posse and hanged there the night before.

I read with a deal of interest the fine letter of Major General William C. Rivers. I have read a number of the general's articles in your paper, and it seems that he is among the few military men who lean toward the constructive side of things. In his letter, "Measures to Avert Lynching," the general is certainly on the upgrade of stamping out this savage hangover.

I say, I have seen machine guns play on mobs, and within six months I have heard "Get that nigger," "Lynch him," go up from the throats of angered crowds.

I have memories of a Negro professor addressing a body of students in a Southern school using these words: "You can't make the Southern white man do anything." Truer words never came out of the South. My observation of the Southern white man through many years of close association is that he is hard-headed. And it is difficult for him to "let go" and take no new ideas. But ounce convinced, all the red coats, blue coats or brown shirts won't change him. Efforts to make the South do anything will only meet with stubborn resistance and increased hatred. Until the people of the South are convinced that lynching and mob violence are putting back the clock, retarding their own progress; that it is taking steps backward into the jungles of civilization to burn human beings, then, and not until then, will the crime of lynching cease in this country.

Not by way of a Federal anti-lynch law, not by statute will the South cease lynching, but by the same methods with which she made the nation dry for fifteen years—direct appeals through schools, books, Sunday schools, churches, the bar and the press. Had every boy and girl who wore the white ribbon of the W. C. T. U. been pledged to never engage in mob violence of any sort, the South would be a happy place in which to live. Farms would flourish. The soil would be tilled by the Negro who loves it, instead of the white collegiates who hate it. And the terrible spectacle of millions of unarmed, unhappy and half-scared blacks would not be the fear of America today.

What is needed perhaps most of all is a new deal in education, a code of ethics centering around some such slogan as "All God's Chillun Got Wings," and that Negroes, even Negro women, are human beings. Here is work for the D. A. R., the Y. M. C. A., national clubs, the Methodist Church, the Federal Department of Education. Indeed, it is America's job to rid this land of the scourge of the lyncher. Not legislation but education will make America civilized.

JOHN T. LYLE.

West Point, N. Y., Dec. 22, 1933.

NEW YORK
[illegible] WORLD —
Telegram

JAN 5 1934

The Liberal Viewpoint

By DR. HARRY ELMER BARNES

OF late, lynchings have crowded riots off the front page of the newspapers, though there is no assurance that the tables may not be turned again.

In any event the score or more of lynchings which take place in a normal year are decidedly less important than the treatment of the more than a quarter of a million delinquents who are detained in our prisons.

Bernard Shaw once said that the cruelties and barbarities which go on in our prisons could not exist for a year if the people really knew the facts.

The slogan that if we give the people light they will find their way to better things is especially true with respect to prison conditions. Most notable improvements in prison administration have grown out of publicity given to atrocious conditions within prison walls by our newspapers.

Therefore the country needs a permanent organization devoted to throwing light upon prison conditions with relentless persistency and continuity. Such an organization must be free from self-interest or fear, possess the scientific resources to make its work thorough and have the vision to make the revelation of the defects of the day the basis for securing a better state of affairs tomorrow.

* * *

THE American Prison Assn. has done excellent work in providing organization and esprit de corps among the leading prison officials of the country. But its members are, for the most part, themselves engaged in the administration of penal institutions. Therefore they could hardly be expected to be too candid or revealing in their observations on the state of our prisons, reformatories and jails.

The suitable organization for giving us the facts on American prison conditions has now come to us in the form of the Osborne Assn., which has superseded the National Society of Penal Information. The Osborne Assn. is, fittingly enough, the outgrowth of the efforts of Thomas Mott Osborne, the foremost figure in our generation in the field of prison reform and a man especially distinguished for his success in directing the attention of the country to the futility of the conventional methods of treating criminals.

The association has just published the first volume of its latest "Handbook of American Prisons and Reformatories," embracing the institutions of seventeen States, mainly those east of the Mississippi and north of the Ohio.

Broadly speaking, these States have the most up to date and enlightened penal institutions in the country, and some of them would hardly justify the strictures which Sinclair Lewis directed against our prisons in "Ann Vickers."

* * *

YET even here we find relatively new institutions which are great white elephants, utterly out of accord with enlightened penology and likely to hold back rational methods for a generation. Such are the great penal fortresses at Jackson, Mich.; Graterford, Pa.; Statesville, Ill., and Attica, N. Y.

We cannot here comment upon the many interesting and instructive details regarding prison administration and prison life in these institutions, but every public-spirited citizen of any State covered in this first volume will be amply repaid for his perusal of the reports dealing with the institutions within his Commonwealth. The facts contained therein constitute the indispensable basis for intelligent work in local prison reform.

All intelligent Americans, whatever their State, will do well to read the brief introduction to the volume, which is an extremely clear and concise summary of the principles which guide the up to date student of penal affairs. It is as far removed from the interest and doctrines of the prison reformers of a century ago as Einstein is from an astrologer.

KANSAS CITY, MO.
STAR

JAN 5 1934

San Jose and St. Joseph.

The announcement that an investigation of the double lynching in San Jose, Cal., is scheduled to be undertaken there at last on January 11 adds one more element of contrast to the handling of the similar crime that was committed in St. Joseph, Mo., two days later. The Buchanan County grand jury completed its investigation of the lynching of Lloyd Warner in St. Joseph and made its report last week. That report not only included eleven indictments against alleged members of the mob that stormed the jail there on the night of November 28, but also demanded action looking to the removal of the sheriff and several members of the police department, on the ground that they were derelict in their duty of defending the prisoner.

The grand jury investigation has not even been started in San Jose. Indeed, the attitude of the California authorities toward the lynching of the two confessed murderers of Brooke L. Hart has consistently left the impression of apathy, ranging into active approval on the part of the governor of the state. The vigorous statement of Governor Park of Missouri, the activity of the assistant attorney general who was sent to investigate the St. Joseph case, the charge of Judge J. V. Gaddy to the grand jury and now the report of that jury find no counterparts in the San Jose case; nor does decent public opinion in San Jose seem to have rallied behind any officer who might have been inclined to prosecute members of the mob, as it did in St. Joseph.

The forces of law and order undoubtedly did break down in St. Joseph on the night of November 28, as the grand jury asserted in its report, but they have regained control in a way that leaves no question as to what this Missouri city thinks about mob rule. San Jose has yet to answer that question.

THE New York police have been given orders by the recently appointed commissioner to clean up the speakeasies, which are said to be a "hang-over" from the days of prohibition. And the speakeasies that operated before prohibition, in New York and elsewhere, were a hang-over, it might be assumed, from early colonial days in this country.

Lynchings-1934
6
Discussions.

White Press, Northern.

4571

A Story That Got Lost

ERSKINE CALDWELL

"If a white man is murdered, telegraph it in; if a Negro is murdered, mail it in." This is the newspaper code in Georgia. Erskine Caldwell's exclusive story below came to the New Masses by wire; and we have asked him to follow it up with a longer one for next week.

New Masses

AUGUSTA, GA.

New York N.Y.

1-16-34

THE DISCOVERY of the mutilated bodies of two Negroes near Bartow, Georgia, last week, unreported in the daily press, has revealed a reign of mob rule that in a month's time has cost the lives of three Negroes and the suspected deaths of two others. The dead are Ernest Bell, Will Walker, and an unidentified Negro. At least five others have been severely beaten and fourteen houses have been burned.

The body of Ernest Bell was found in a well, where he had been thrown after his body was mutilated. The body of the unidentified man was found in a fallow field with numerous bullets in the head and with the throat cut. Walker died in an Augusta hospital after being fatally injured by a Bartow policeman. According to a coroner's jury, the other two men were killed by parties unknown.

Sam Outlaw and Blevin Williams, Negroes of Bartow, are now being held in the Jefferson County jail in Louisville by Sheriff J. J. Smith to prevent threatened lynching.

There is a persistent report locally that two other men, both Negroes, have been lynched and their bodies thrown into a creek near Bartow. Sheriff Smith states that he has been unable to find the bodies. C. S. Bryant, a well-known farmer living in the vicinity of Bartow, was threatened by the mob when he attempted to remove Will Walker to the hospital. Bryant appealed to Sheriff Smith and two days after being wounded Walker was taken to Augusta, where he died the following day. When the body of Walker was brought back to Jefferson County, Sheriff Smith placed it in the county jail for safekeeping. Members of the Bartow mob came to Louisville and demanded that they be allowed to see the body. Sheriff Smith states that when he was convinced that the members of the mob merely wished to identify it as being that of Will Walker, he allowed them to view it. The spokesman for the mob stated that they made the trip to the jail for the purpose of assuring themselves that Walker was dead.

According to Sheriff Smith no action will be taken against members of the mob unless further lynching takes place because no white man can be found who will testify against members of a mob in a case involving Negroes. He points to the action of the coroner's jury which investigated the cases of the deaths of three men, and which returned the verdict usual in such cases locally—"Death at the hand of parties unknown." Sheriff Smith has promised to appeal to the Governor of the state for militia to protect the lives of those Negroes in Bartow who are alive today, if he thinks additional lynching will take place. At the present time, however, there can be found no evidence to show that the mob intends to cease activities.

The fact that no arrests have been made has been explained here as being due to the conditions that make it extremely difficult to convict a white man in a local court on a Negro's word.

This reign of terror which began in Bartow during the early part of December, and which reached its present state during the first week of January, has spread over Jefferson County. Negroes in all sections of the county express fear for their lives. Feeling has grown intense. Sheriff Smith states that he intends to take Sam Outlaw to the South Carolina state line and release him to flee for his life.

Outlaw cannot at present stand on his feet because of the injuries he received at the hands of the Bartow mob. Local Negroes do not believe that the removal of Outlaw will appease the mob, however, and they feel certain that further lynchings will take place.

The weekly newspapers of this county, in which are located the towns of Bartow, Louisville, Wadley, and Wrens, have made no mention of the deaths of these men. The daily papers of the state have failed to report the actions of the mob, and the news-gathering agencies have made no effort to report the situation to their members in other states. No local correspondents for the dailies can be found who have made reports, perhaps because of a rule in the book of instructions sent to local correspondents by the daily newspapers of Georgia: *"If a white man is murdered, telegraph it in; if a Negro is murdered, mail it in."*

Bartow is a town of four hundred persons, about half of whom are Negroes. It is located in a rich farming and lumbering district. Its institutions for white people consist of a high school and four churches—two Baptist, two Methodist.

DULUTH, MINN.
HERALD
FEB 5 1934

The South Condemns Mobs.

It is an agreeable development that large numbers of Southern women have come out openly against the lynching evil too prevalent in the "old South." From 1889 to 1930, three thousand, seven hundred and twenty-four persons have been lynched in the United States. Of this number seven hundred and forty-five were white, and two thousand, nine hundred and seventy-nine Negroes. Less than one-sixth of the Negro victims were accused of rape, and the usual excuse advanced by the lynchers of Negroes and their apologists that Negro lynchings are to protect the honor of white women and the sanctity of the home, is, to an important extent, without foundation.

These Southern women are content to leave the protection of their honor to the courts and do not wish murderous mobs, armed and carrying torches, should plead as an excuse for their brutal conduct the sacred duty they prate of.

In discussing this Mrs. Celia P. McGovern, member of one of Charleston's original families, says: "Hundreds of thousands of white women in the South feel that the law, as represented by sheriffs, juries and judges, as their honorable and reliable protection and avenger."

There is an Association of Southern Women for the Prevention of Lynching with headquarters at Atlanta, of which Mrs. Atwood Martin of Louisville, Kentucky, is chairman and Mrs. Jessie D. Ames of Atlanta is director. This group prefers the protection of the law to that of law-breaking mobs. The women who make up the association are of the highest standing. They will aid in cleaning an ugly stain from the national repute.

Literary Digest, N.Y.

FEB 10 1934

The First 1934 Lynching

Kentucky has furnished the first lynching of 1934. Rex Scott, a Negro, charged with the murder of a fellow-laborer, Alex Johnson, a white man, was forcibly taken from jail in Perry County and hanged to a tree in nearby Knott County. Four men were arrested as members of the lynching party, and a special grand jury was called to inquire into the crime.

Upon receipt of the news of the lynching, the Kentucky House of Representatives adopted a resolution pledging support of Governor Laffoon in "any steps he may take" to prevent lynchings.

In an editorial entitled "What Will Be Our Lynching Record for 1934?", Dr. W. P. King writes in the Nashville *Christian Advocate*, organ of the Methodist Episcopal Church, South:

"Again, the pulpit must speak in no uncertain terms in an arraignment of the growing menace of lynch lawlessness. . . . The individualistic theology of a large element of the Southern Baptist, Southern Methodist and Presbyterian churches should be corrected. A large class of our preachers should be reminded to let the Egyptians and Israelites have a good long rest, and also the sins of the ancient Amalekites, and to deal in a Christian way with our own social and racial problems. It is high time that we were dealing with the murderous crimes of 'Americanites.'

"Preachers who condone or apologize for lynching turn the pulpit into a coward's castle and are unworthy of their calling; they should surrender their credentials and take their places among the renegades of society, where they belong."

CLEVELAND, O.
PRESS

FEB 2 1934

SOUTHERN WOMEN SPEAK

THE Dixie gentlemen who have been lynching black men stand condemned by the very flower of womanhood they have pretended to protect.

In Atlanta the Conference of Southern White Women for the Prevention of Lynching passed resolutions calling on President Roosevelt to work with governors and congressmen to eradicate this evil. It was this conference that four years ago served notice on men that they held no commission to protect the honor and virtue of southern women by means of mob murders.

With a membership of some 1,000,000 white women in 11 southern states, the conference can be said to speak for southern women rather generally.

The conference did not specifically indorse the pending Wagner-Costigan bill providing for federal intervention to halt lynchings. But there is argument for such a measure in the conference's statement that:

"Past experience has demonstrated that state and local authorities and the public opinion behind them have failed to bring to justice members of lynching mobs although their identities have been known."

HASTINGS, NEB.
TRIBUNE

JAN 29 1934

THE MOB AGAIN

A repulsive lynching of a negro in Kentucky has brought many messages to the governor from Kentucky residents urging the executive to exert his best efforts to detect and punish the lynchers and the house of representatives with unanimous voice condemned the lynching. It is in contrast with the attitude of California's governor recently.

The Kentucky negro was not accused of criminal assault upon a woman as is the case in most lynchings in the South. He was accused of beating a white man with a club and fatally injuring him. The action of this mob, like that of so many others, does not impress one with having for its object the deterring of other crimes. One suspects that the mob was moved more by an ugly race hatred even more than by the desire for vengenance, and vengenance does not have good rank as a motive.

It is conceivable that there might be circumstances under which mob action might result from natural indignation, but lynchings as a whole show a descent to sheer cruelty and low minded excitement rather than natural indignation. And the Kentucky incident is a case in point.

New York Evening Post

FEB 7 1934

BETTER RACE FEELING

To the Editor of the Evening Post:

Sir—Last Sunday night there was a lynching in Tampa, and the usual criticism of the South at once became the theme of editorials in many papers. There are indeed some pitiful incidents like this, but they are becoming infrequent and they get too much news space, while beautiful things go unrecorded.

Last Sunday night here in Palm Beach, a woman, born and reared in the South, went out of a drug store with two cold drinks in paper cups and handed one to a Negro girl in black sateen uniform. "Drink it while we walk along," she said; "you had so much extra work with all that company." Then the white woman in white and the black girl in black disappeared into the night, sipping their drinks as they walked off.

The woman is prominent but not wealthy. She cannot afford an older maid. Because the girl has been accosted once or twice, she is afraid. So every evening, rain or shine, the white woman takes the dark child home, walking ten blocks to do this after working in an office every day but Sunday.

Here in the South we are getting farther and farther away from lynchings; closer and closer to brotherhood—yes, and to sisterhood!

HELENE CLAIBORNE.

West Palm Beach, Fla.

Brooklyn, N. Y. Eagle

FEB 12 1934

Dr Neumann Places Blame for Lynchings

An "American passion for quick results" was blamed for lynching mobs in an address by Dr. Harry Neumann before the Brooklyn Ethical Culture Society at the Academy of Music yesterday.

"It (the passion for quick results) has led our easy-going public opinion to pardon captains of industry and finance for many a crooked deal," Dr. Neumann said. "No wonder that everywhere the smaller fry have been imitating them in their own way!"

WASHINGTON, D. C.
NEWS

FEB 7 1934

OUT OF TOWN

Editor, The News:

WHEN the U. S. puts an end to its lynchings, sometimes of innocent persons, by excited, bloodthirsty mobs, then, and not until then, can this Government in any honesty write notes to Germany in protest of supposed cruelty to some of its Jewish citizens.

Hitler is a much maligned man. Hitler would not allow his government to put to death by poisonous gas fumes, little birds whose only sin is that they must rest somewhere at night in a city, as there is no shelter in the country at this season of year.

A SUBSCRIBER.

Danish Paper Scores Lynching

The *Social-Demokraten*, one of Copenhagen's leading newspapers, recently carried a three-column feature story on lynching in the United States. The article by John Sperling, is based on material furnished by the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People. The illustrations accompanying the article consist of twelve small photographs of beautiful American Negro children and a large picture of the San Jose lynching.

New York Evening Post

FEB 21 1934

LEGAL LYNCHINGS

To the Editor of the Evening Post:

Sir—In Mississippi it is not possible to give three Negroes a fair trial with a mob of angry men outside in the court-house yard threatening to lynch the Negroes if they are not convicted. This mob has a definite influence on both the court and the accused. That "the Negroes confessed" is under such circumstances the merest bunk. With sure death waiting outside and with an unsympathetic or even hostile "defense counsel appointed by the court," men can be easily influenced to "confess" anything in the despairing hope of getting life in prison at the hands of the court.

It need never be forgotten that one of the Scottsboro defendants under similar inducements, "confessed" at the first trial three years ago—and since that time almost the whole world, with the exception of a few Alabama court officials, has learned that those boys are innocent.

WILLIAM PICKENS.

BUFFALO, N. Y.
COURIER EXPRESS

JUN 23 1934

THE KIRBYVILLE LYNCHERS

The presence of a woman in the President's cabinet for the first time in American history is a satisfying piece of evidence that women approach equal rights with men. If, however, women intend to use such rights to participate in mobs, as they appear to have done in the lynching of Son Griggs, a Negro, at Kirbyville, Tex., is the victory proving to be worth the price?

Griggs had been arrested on charges of associating with a white woman, vagrancy and keeping a disorderly house. Informed that a mob was forming, the sheriff dispatched two deputies with the prisoner to Orange, for safe keeping. On the road the mob overtook them. One reads that "the crowd of men and women . . . threw a rope around Griggs' neck and ordered the officers to drive on." After the hanging the crowd riddled the body with bullets and then "tied it with another rope to the rear of an automobile, dragging it about the county until after midnight." The lynching, it appears, occurred not long after midday.

One should not too hastily judge the difficult racial conditions that exist in some areas. Such conditions, however, can not justify lapses by white men and women into barbarism. The law was in possession at Kirbyville. Do the people of Kirbyville mistrust their law? If they do, then they should reform it. They can not successfully replace it with lynch law. California tried lynching as a deterrent of kidnaping. The man who then was California's governor praised the lynching and held it up as an example of direct action designed to put the fear of public revenge in every potential kidnaper's breast. But it was not long before California was the scene of another kidnaping.

There can be no successful law that is not civilized in design and equally civilized in enforcement. Lynch law is uncivilized and consequently must be regarded only as a makeshift to which resort must be taken in areas where society is not organized according to civilization's ordinary tenets. If the Kirbyville area of Texas is still an unorganized community, the Kirbyville lynchers, men and women, are, of course, not subject to criticism.

Lynchings - 1934
6
Discussions.

White Press, Northern.

4572

Star
TERRE HAUTE
INDIANA

FEB 21 1934

THE LYNCHING RECORD.

"The year 1933 was probably the worst year in the crusade against the lynching evil since 1922," says the Federal Council of Churches in announcing its "honor roll" of states free of lynchings during the year. The council continues with much other comment but wholly misses at least one important item that surely contributed to the increase.

Pointing to the fact that the number of lynchings increased from eight in 1932 to 28 in 1933 in an increased number of states, the council declares that "this record of increased territory under the sway of mob influence points to two definite tasks which face America: First, the hands of law officers must be strengthened by additional legislation—state and national—giving them power to deal with lynchers and increasing the penalty upon law officers who prove themselves delinquent in protecting prisoners. Secondly, the people, especially the younger generation, must be trained in self-control and respect for law and authority. This is a special responsibility of the press and of the churches."

Upon no more than casual consideration, it must appear that the council is making the problem too elementary. More laws cannot provide a solution. There are sufficient laws upon the books of every state in the union to deal with lynchers if officials actually desire to take action.

As for teaching self-control and respect for law and authority, it does seem that such teaching might have some effect upon lynching over a long period. It may be that newspapers have a direct responsibility in the matter. However, granting that all of this is true, the accomplishment is much more difficult, much more involved than the simple statement of the council indicates. The whole system of legal procedure becomes involved, in so far as it effects respect for law; the inertia of human nature, if it may be so called, becomes an important factor; in all, the problem is one requiring years of effort as against slow change.

Our lawmakers and the kind of laws they pass create the public attitude toward law and authority. And mostly the public is apathetic toward laws until they begin to pinch in an economic way or affect the rights of large numbers of persons. The newspapers can talk, beg and cajole and the ministers can plead as they will but the public attitude toward law and authority will not be greatly changed unless the public is feeling directly some need for change.

The council seems to have been deluding itself if it believed that the low mark of 1932 represented much permanent headway against lynching. We shall be lynching our fellow citizens for years to come despite all of our claims toward being civilized. Such a statement is not intended as a piece of pessimism. Lynching should be eliminated but let us not allow our desire blind ourselves to what we may expect. There is no short cut. We must keep up the battle with patience and courage. It is a difficult problem that will not be solved in a year or two years or 10 years.

DETROIT, MICH.
FREE PRESS

FEB 26 1934

THE LYNCHING RECORD

AS A PART of the general national murder record, the number of lynchings in the United States last year does not loom large. There is more than one city in America in which the annual homicide list is of such size that a variation of 28 either way does not mean a great deal in the way of percentage.

It is not the number lynched in 1933, but the significance of a sudden material increase of such crimes in comparison with other recent periods that counts in the picture.

Most murder is an offense by an individual against society. But lynching is an offense by society against itself. And what is bound to happen to a house divided against itself is no mystery.

The 1933 record is a symptom of crumbling self control and morale which, with general conditions as they are, is of highly sinister portent.

An increase from eight lynchings in one twelve months to 28 in the next means a change of attitude for the worse toward law and its machinery that calls for the gravest feeling of concern.

Manifestly it is imperative that two things shall be done. Respect for law and law enforcement must be built up. And law and the enforcement of law must be made worthy of respect.

We think that the biggest and most important immediate job on the whole is to make law administration worthy of respect.

CAMDEN, N. J.
POST

76

FEB 28 1934

MORE LAWS WON'T STOP THE LAWLESS

Humanitarians and liberals, distressed by the wave of mob murders, are pressing a Federal anti-lynching bill in the Senate. Their remedy is as bad as their motives are excellent.

The bill provides for punishment of state officers who allow a lynching to take place. It proposes an indemnity of $10,000 to the family of the victim, to be paid by the county in which the lynching occurs.

Imagine a drunken gang of mobsters pausing because someone remembered that the county would have to pay a $10,000 indemnity!

Imagine a state or county official, who would permit a lynching under the present laws, suddenly deciding to do his duty because he feared Federal punishment!

Passing special laws about lynching encourages the lynchers' contention that there is something special, something different about lynch cases.

The idea that needs stimulation is that lynching is plain murder and differs from any other murder only in that it is usually more ghastly and easier to prevent.

If existing laws cannot be enforced because of local sentiment, there is no reason on earth to believe that another law will change human nature.

FARGO, N. D.
FORUM

FEB 21 1934

The South and Lynching

Ordinarily, the prevalency of lynching in the South is attributed to the fact that Southerners must take this means for the protection of women. Of late years there has been developed the Association of Southern Women for the Prevention of Lynching, and this group is particularly active in trying to bring about means for stamping out the lynching evil. In a statistical report on the subject, just issued, it is said that from 1889 to 1930 a total of 3,724 persons were lynched in this country. Of this group, 745 were white and 2,979 were Negroes. It is rather significant to note that less than one-sixth are said to have been caused on any basis of protection to white women.

The Southern women who are active in the work of trying to do away with lynching are taking the viewpoint that the sounder method is to let the law, juries and judges be their protectors. To know that the responsibility is going to be left solely to them, certainly would add to the vigilance of law officers and of the courts.

HORNELL, N. Y.
TRIBUNE TIMES

FEB 27 1934

AGAINST LYNCHERS

It is not without some cause that hearings have begun in Washington to consider the advisability of enacting federal legislation to prevent lynchings. Between 1918 and 1934, mobs have mocked civilization and orderly justice by grinding out the lives of 554 persons. Last year was especially notorious for its outcroppings of public violence against the individual. Not only were mobs not punished, but in some cases they were even encouraged by officials.

Within the lifetime of many, there have been more than 5,050 lynchings. Of this number, almost 4,000 were vented against negroes. This is a record of which neither the white race, society nor the United States can very well be proud. It is a stigma which no amount of rationalizing will rub out. It is a rather peculiar American problem which needs a solution. Any effort to root it out is worthy of strong encouragement.

Among the federal laws proposed to control this abuse of the courts, and of the rights of every individual to a fair trial, is one that would fix a penalty for authorities who wilfully neglect to protect persons threatened by angry crowds. One can see the need for some such legislation when one remembers what a certain governor of a certain big state said not long ago about the lynching of two kidnapers. Recalling the incident merely provokes mental nausea. It is enough to say that law should join decent society in a crusade against the obscene mind and the bloody hand—the marks of the lyncher.

EMPORIA, KANS.
GAZETTE
FEB 21 193

LYNCHING.

Lynching is one of the few crimes which can be prevented by precautionary measures. The fear of punishment will stop lynching if the punishment is reasonably certain. Sometimes brave men commit crimes of violence or cunning. But lynchers are always cowards. Lynching is the only crime invariably executed by cowards who require the presence of other cowards to nerve them to crime.

The passage of a federal lynching bill hailing the lynchers into court outside of the county in which the lynching occurs, will naturally almost automatically remove the cowardly defendant from the circle of commending public opinion and hence bare his crime to the contumely which it deserves. He knows the mob protects him from the law in the courts.

Instinctively he feels safe when he lynches. He senses the truth that it is impossible to convict a member of a lynching mob in the community which encouraged or permitted a lynching. For the community responsible for the crime inevitably biases any possible jury assembled under our modern method of choosing juries. Thus conviction for lynching is only possible outside of the area which condones a given lynching. For unfortunately under our jury system, which rejects a man intelligently informed; the system automatically has to accept a man of the type who would join a mob or justify it in the court of any community. The same man outside of the community where the lynching occurred would be properly horrified by it and so would vote to convict where he would be stubborn for acquittal near the scene of the lynching.

The Costigan-Wagner bill, taking the trial for the lynching away from the scene of the crime, will make conviction so easy that the mob spirit will hesitate and dissolve into inaction. One or two federal convictions will do more to stop lynching than all the resolutions passed by all the good will societies, all the tall talk indulged in by all the humiliated governors, and all the moral indignation released by all the uplifters in the United States.

For the crime of lynching is a preventable crime. It will be prevented if the cowards who invariably form the mob can only know that there is a God in his Israel and a jail yawning at the end of their debauch.

PHILADELPHIA, PA.
MORNING PUBLIC LEDGER
FEB 28 1934

LYNCHING AROUSES PEARL BUCK'S IRE

'Ashamed Before China' at U. S. Barbarism, She Writes in Negro Journal

ATTACKS WAR AS 'STUPID'

An attack on lynching as a holdover from a very primitive civilization and against the concepts on which the United States was founded is made by Pearl S. Buck, author and missionary, writing in the March issue of Opportunity, journal of Negro life.

Mrs. Buck, writing from China, characterized war "as a stupid, endless quarrel that settles nothing." In the Far East, she adds, war is "increasingly being thought of at least as anarchy, to be prevented by intelligent settlement of disputes."

Speaking of recent reports of lynchings in America, she writes:

"I would not be a true patriot, I think, if I were to excuse or condone in any slightest degree the incredible news which has come flashing across the cables even to this far China, of the lynchings which have taken place in my country within very recent months and even weeks.

"My Countrymen"

"Those who were lynched were my countrymen. That their race was not mine makes no difference—they were my countrymen. Because they were my countrymen, they had every right, no matter what their crime, to the privileges of the laws of our land.

"Their race, their crimes, have nothing to do with the question of their rights. When they were lynched they were treated with hideous and barbarous injustice. One received with equanimity such news from savage islands or from the few remaining hinterlands of the world. To receive such news from my country, from America, my country, which calls itself civilized, from which missionaries and philanthropists have been sent in such numbers to other countries and peoples, is inexplicable and to me heartbreaking.

"I am quite aware that there are those among my countrymen who will say I do not understand the race problem. I reply, I do understand it. I have lived my life among colored races, a white child, a white girl, a white woman with two daughters. There is no aspect of the race problem which I have not faced and completely understood. I have never seen any aspect, I cannot conceive of any aspect, which could extenuate the savage bestiality of lynching.

Ashamed Before Chinese

"I as an American in China am ashamed before the Chinese. I speak to them less hopefully of the inevitable passing of their barbarous civil wars, because in my own country is this subtle civil war, breaking out into such fearful open murder.

"I am less confident of their schemes of democracy, since I see that my own country, where the democratic theory has been most adequately put into practice, can yet allow, year after year, such recrudescence of the lowest, least democratic, least intelligent form of tyranny, the tyranny of the beast over the brain.

"I shall not be proud again until my countrymen make lynching a major crime. For to break the laws of justice, not only to a single human being but to all human beings, by an act of such complete lawlessness as lynching, is indefinitely worse than the killing of one man by another because it is the murder of one by many, and we are all implicated inextricably in such crime."

DES MOINES, IA.
REGISTER
FEB 21 193

A DISGRACEFUL RECORD FOR MOB MURDER.

The disgraceful toll of lives taken by bloodthirsty mobs in this country during 1933 can well give serious pause to every good citizen who pretends to belong to a decent society.

Is there some tangible reason why the number of lynchings, after a rather consistent decline ever since 1885, should have leaped back from the low record of 8 in 1932 to 28 in 1933—a higher total than in any year since 1926?

Probably some sort of case could be made for several explanations—the release of emotions strained by several trying years economically; the reaction to overthrow of an unpopular constitutional law, climaxing a general disregard for law; the influence of resort to force throughout the world; popular indignation toward a rampant social sore, kidnaping; and so on.

None of these alone, obviously, would do. But they are worth thinking about. For the American people must find a cure. It is not encouraging that, even for one year, the mass of people should look upon mob violence so lethargically and state officials should so betray the society with whose orderliness they are entrusted that in 11 states a rabble can dethrone law and justice without effective resistance.

It is worth noting again, moreover, that every state in which lynchings occurred during 1933, with the exception of California, is either a "southern state" or a border state in which strong racial prejudices exist.

It would not do to ignore the fact, however, that there were 37 instances last year in which officers of the law did prevent lynchings. In 13 of these armed force was necessary. It is not unfair to assume that in the greater share of lynchings that occurred, the use of strong official measures or even the condemnation by public officials of the mobs' acts, instead of condonement of them and acquiescence in them, would have prevented the horrors that resulted.

Unless there reappears a widespread and popular revulsion toward mob murder and a new respect for the processes that have made the human race a civilized society, the law-abiding majority of citizens need not be surprised at the growth of crime and disorder everywhere.

WELLSVILLE, N. Y.
REPORTER
FEB 23 1934

LONG LOOY AT LYNCHING

The 28 lynchings which occurred in the United States in 1933 were confined to eleven states. Since the number had been dropping steadily for some years, it was discouraging to have the total rise so high again. However, a glance at statistics over the years since 1892 is reassuring.

In 1892 there were 255 lynchings in this country. They dropped to 131 in 1896, then jumped again to 166 the following year. Then the decline was resumed, reaching a new low of 107, followed by an increase to 135. By 1907 the total had come down to 63. That was followed by a bad year, with 100 lynchings. The total has never reached 100 since 1908. In 1926 there were 30, in 1930 there were 25 but in 1929 there were only 10.

Even with the occasional set-backs, it seems clear that lynching is slowly disappearing. After scanning the record it no longer seems too optimistic to anticipate a year when there will be no mob murders in the whole length and breadth of the land.

BINGHAMTON, N. Y.
SUN
FEB 26 1934

Long Look at Lynching

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Lynchings-1934
Discussions.

White Press, Northern.

4573

BOSTON MASS.
HERALD

OCT 29 1934

AN ADVERTISED LYNCHING

Lynchings are sometimes condoned as sudden spontaneous acts of vengeance by people angered by some particularly atrocious crime. But there was little which was sudden or spontaneous about the lynching of Claude Neal, a Negro, in Greenwood, Fla., Friday night.

The victim, who was accused of attacking and killing a white woman, was taken from a jail at Brewton, Ala., by a mob early Friday morning. Word was spread around during the day that his lynching would take place that evening at the scene of the murder and "all white folks" were invited to attend. So generally was the news broadcast that the Associated Press "scheduled" it for "8 or 9 P. M." in its late afternoon dispatches to member newspapers, just as if it were a football game or a prize fight. Yet Gov. Sholtz of Florida says that he was powerless to do anything to prevent the exhibition.

Perhaps Florida, which has enjoyed forty lynchings in the last 12 years, intends to make them regular attractions during the coming tourist season, sandwiching them in among beauty contests, golf tournaments, motorboat races and other entertainments. They would undoubtedly draw large crowds, for most northerners have never had the privilege of seeing a man strung up, torn down, and his body mutilated by an assembly of God-fearing citizens. The spectacle, moreover, would give them a clearer insight into the civilized superiority of the white race.

It is curious that Quebec authorities, forced Saturday to protect a prisoner who had insanely murdered six persons, moved the place of inquest three times rather than run the risk of a lynching. Florida could have made quite a show out of that!

BUFFALO, N. Y.
TIMES

OCT 28 1934

FLORIDA'S DISGRACE

A MURDER was committed down in Greenwood, Fla., early yesterday morning.

The victim was a Negro by the name of Calude Neal, accused of killing a white woman but untried and unconvicted.

The killing of Neal was premeditated. An entire county knew that it was going to occur. It could have been prevented.

Neal was taken from a jail across the line in Alabama early Friday morning and held captive all day. A crowd of a thousand persons gathered to see the "fun," so large a crowd that the mob postponed the killing from hour to hour. Politicians appeared and made stump speeches.

The governor of Florida offered to send troops to avert the lynching. The sheriff reported that he "could handle the situation." He couldn't handle the situation and there is nothing in the news reports to indicate that he even tried. The governor thereupon washed his hands of the matter and let the mob have its way.

All of Friday and most of Friday night the mob played its badger game with its victim, finally killing him early yesterday. Then the body was dragged several miles by an automobile to the home of the woman Neal is alleged to have killed. There another mob was permitted the singular satisfaction of shooting and stabbing the body. After that the corpse was taken to the courthouse square and hanged from a tree.

In this episode of sadistic horror just one creditable incident shines forth. That was the demand for troops made upon the governor by the Florida chapter of the Association of Southern Women for the Prevention of Lynching—an organization composed of the true flower of the South's womanhood which declines to be a party any longer to the fiction that lynching is necessary to protect its virtue.

Responsibility for this lynching rests squarely in the first instance upon Sheriff W. F. Chambliss of Jackson county who refused or failed to stop it, in the second instance upon Gov. Dave Sholtz who could have prevented it but didn't.

Nothing could more clearly show the need of Senator Costigan's proposed federal Anti-Lynching law, which would assess fines against counties and States whose officers fail to prevent lynchings. If the orgy of mob murder had to be paid for by the taxpayers they would be less willing to participate in it or condone it.

RACES

"They Done Me Wrong"

11-5-34

Life in Greenwood, Fla. was a little less dull one day last week when all the white folks in the neighborhood were invited out to George Cannidy's place for a lynching. Someone had dragged Farmer Cannidy's young daughter Lola out across his cotton patch, raped her near a pigsty, bashed in her head and left her under some pine boughs for dead. A Negro buck named Claude Neal had been arrested for the crime, lodged for safe keeping in a jail across the Alabama line at Brewton. One hundred Floridians had driven over to Brewton and without much fuss removed Claude Neal from the jail.

Upon invitation of a "lynching committee" of six, 5,000 men, women and children choked the front yard of the Cannidy place, overflowed into the cotton field where bonfires were lighted. The Cannidys had prepared some sharp sticks and whetted their knives in anticipation of the revenge they would take on Negro Neal. A man said to be a Florida legislator got up and amused the crowd with a funny speech as it waited for the spectacle. It was nearly midnight when one of the "lynching committee" appeared to announce that he feared violence with so many people around; there would be no show until most of the mob went home. Plain truth seemed to be that the lynching committee had so brutalized the Negro that he had died back in the woods on the banks of the Chipola River before the lynchers had a chance to kill him publicly. He was certainly quite dead when, toward morning, the lynchers dumped his mutilated corpse in front of the Cannidy's door. "Pa" Cannidy was hopping mad.

"They done me wrong about this here killing," he wailed. "They promised me they'd bring him up to my house before they killed him and let me have the first shot. That's what I wanted."

"Pa" and "Ma" and the eight Cannidy children had to be satisfied with the last shot. They got out the family rabbit gun and pumped a few slugs into the lifeless blackamoor. Then the corpse was taken into Marianna, the county seat, hung up in front of the courthouse. The dirty work of cutting it down went to the county sheriff. National Guardsmen arrived, as usual, too late to do Claude Neal any good.

Governor David Holtz, back at Tallahassee from the American Legion convention in Miami (see above), felt that an explanation was due with regard to his tardiness in calling out the militia. "It was not a case of calling out the militia to protect the jail or a prisoner in custody of an officer," said he. "The Negro was held in the hands of a mob out in the woods. . . . It would have been futile to have called out the militia."

But the Association of Southern Women for the Prevention of Lynching, which had begged for troops as soon as Neal was taken from Brewton, found it hard to believe that soldiers were trained only to find their way around in city streets or jail corridors. Indignantly A. S. W. P. L. wired Attorney General Cummings to beg him to start some sort of Federal prosecution.

NEGRO LYNCHING IN FLORIDA

Federal Law Needed

(From our New York Correspondent.)

11-2-34

The Federal authorities are now anxiously considering questions of policy which have been raised by the newest case of negro lynching, one of the most horrible in recent years.

In this instance the negro was captured by a mob in Alabama, taken across the State line, and lynched in Florida. After the Lindbergh baby was kidnapped a new Federal law was passed making inter-State kidnapping a Federal crime, punishable by death. It was never intended that this law should apply to negroes kidnapped by mobs intent on lynching, but demands are pouring in on Washington from many sources that the law should be invoked in this case. It is also probable that another attempt will be made during the forthcoming session of Congress to make lynching itself a Federal crime. Previous efforts to pass such law have always been blocked by the South, although numerous experts believe that only thus can the number of lynchings be reduced.

In the present case a negro, Claude Neal, accused of assaulting and murdering a young white woman near Marianna, Florida, was taken from gaol in Brewton, Alabama, by a mob which arrived in thirty cars bearing the Florida registration plates. The mob took him back to Marianna, where they lynched him before a large gathering of persons, submitting him to a series of indescribable tortures. The fact that he would be lynched was known fully twelve hours in advance and printed in the press throughout the United States.

In spite of this the Governors of Alabama and Florida apparently made no serious attempt to prevent the lynching. The mob was permitted to take the prisoner from the Alabama gaol without resistance, and the Governor of Florida is reported to have refused to send soldiers to prevent the lynching, on the ground that the negro was already in the hands of the mob and that he could in no way rescue him.

There have been numerous lynchings in Florida recently for which no one has been punished. The sentiment of the community in most parts of the South is so hostile to the negroes that the local authorities say that it is hopeless to attempt a prosecution, even when the lynchers' names are known, as is often the case. If a Federal law were passed the prosecution would be conducted by Washington officials, who are immune from any political pressure, and the State in which the lynching took place could be subjected to a heavy fine, the burden of which would fall upon all taxpayers.

BOSTON, MASS.
TRAVELER

OCT 29 1934

Are Black Girls Ever Attacked?

National guard machine guns mounted in a Florida court house square took the bluster out of mobs of free-born whites who had been terrorizing every black man for miles about. A white girl had been attacked and killed. One Negro was lynched. The rest had to flee in panic.

The defence of mob action in the South is that "it is the only way to protect our women."

No person quarrels with menfolks trying to protect their women. A question does arise as to whether it is a white man's right to take a black man away from the law and lynch him. It is unlikely that a black man guilty of attacking a woman will be freed by a southern jury.

No, it is just low-grade mob rule. Persons sympathetic towards the white man's problem in the South try to appreciate his point of view, but the evidence seems to be that the mobs are almost invariably made up of the riff-raff and hoodlums and that the intelligent white folks try to uphold the processes of law.

And is the attacking of women always done by blacks upon whites? Do whites never attack black girls? And if they do, are they lynched? Or is it that black girls are fair game for attack?

Sectionalism is abhorrent to Americans. The North tries to understand the southern point of view. It is difficult to applaud, not alone the lynching, but the sadistic disfigurement of corpses after the blood lust has been partially satisfied by a hanging or burning.

We consider ourselves civilized in this country. Name another country that can match the lynchings of the South.

HARRISBURG, PA.
PATRIOT

OCT 29 1934

MARIANNA LYNCHING

For cold blooded lynchings over a long period of years, Florida's lawless spectacle at Marianna with its logical sequels is by all odds the leader. Public sentiment is shocked at the deliberate way in which the mob took a Negro prisoner from jail in an adjoining state and then proceeded to "play with him" in much the manner that a cat plays with a mouse before dispatching it.

It is doubtful if in all the sickening records of lynchings in the United States there has been anything to match this barbarity. Granted that the Negro was guilty of attacking and slaying a white girl, though, of course, no court passed upon it, the average person sickens at the thought that the mob leaders summoned the country-side as to a picnic to see a human being butchered and shot.

In Rome Christians were fed to the lions to make a holiday for the arena crowds. About the only difference between Rome and Marianna is the lack of an arena. Every other appeal to the brutal instincts of mankind was provided.

After this demonstration it is not strange that having "smelled blood," the mob began seeking other victims, resulting in such disorder that the militia had to be summoned. Florida's Governor promises a thorough investigation of the whole business. An investigation is essential to Florida's good reputation. Residents of that state ought to be the most curious to know why local public officials could not or did not stop this peculiarly wanton affair. They have already seen what surrender to the mob means and the spectacle is by no means comforting to anybody.

New York Evening Post

OCT 29 1934

A JOB IN THE SOUTH FOR FEDERAL AGENTS

Immediate, specific action can be taken in the ghastly Florida lynching. This is one case that doesn't have to end in vain regrets and recriminations.

The Bureau of Investigation of the United States Department of Justice can and should move against the lynchers at once.

The Negro, Claude Neal, was seized by the mob from an Alabama jail and carried over the State line to Florida to be killed.

The case comes directly under the "Lindbergh" kidnaping law. Prosecution should be started immediately and it should be as rigorous and uncompromising as in any other kidnaping case.

If anything, the Federal Government should devote extra effort to this affair, because while ordinary kidnaping is a violation only of substantive criminal law, the lynching was a direct flaunting of the whole power of government itself.

If the Federal Government does not take a hand nothing will be done. State and local officials involved are turning their backs, playing politics, fearful of antagonizing local feeling.

The Negro was seized in Brewton, Ala., early Friday, in time for New York evening papers to carry full accounts of the abduction. The lynch mob and the "lynch committee of six" conferred brazenly with local officers and announced in Brewton that they were going to take Neal to Greenwood, Fla., the home of the girl he was accused of raping and murdering.

There was time for thousands to gather at Greenwood before Neal was even brought to the place.

There was time for the Florida Council of the Association of Southern Women for the Prevention of Lynching to express the sane opinion of the South and ask Governor Sholtz to call out the National Guard to protect the prisoner and uphold the law of Florida.

There was time for the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People to make the same request.

Governor Sholtz was fully advised of the situation. He had more than half a day in which to act. He could have massed State officers and National Guard at Greenwood. He could have ca[illegible] for Federal help.

But the Governor, betraying his oath to support the laws of his State, left the summoning of the National Guard to the discretion of his officers in the field. He accepted the word of Sheriff Chambliss that the situation could be "handled" locally.

Sholtz preferred to look the other way, while bestiality replaced law and mob rule overrode legal process. He has clearly shown himself unfit and unwilling. He has made Federal entry into the case doubly imperative.

Because of the lack of a Federal anti-lynching law, Federal officials cannot usually take a hand. But here the Lindbergh law clearly applies. It is up to J. Edgar Hoover of the Department of Justice to take over at once.

Democrats fearful of the effect on politics should remember the courage shown by Governor Ritchie of Maryland in fighting lynching on the Eastern Shore.

Federal action will be welcomed by thousands of Southerners who hate and fight the lynch spirit and recognize it for what it is—surrender of the State to hoodlums, abdication of th[illegible] to the mob.

Lynchings-1934 & Discussions

White Press, Northern

4574

ST. PAUL, MINN.
PIONEER PRESS

JUL 13 1934

A STATE'S RIGHT?

THE threat of federal interference removed when congress adjourned without passing the Costigan-Wagner anti-lynching bill, mob lawlessness again is spreading over the land.

In a Louisiana crossroads town, a mob battered down the jail door, dragged a Negro youth from his cell, slit his throat and hanged him to a tree. The prosecuting attorney and the sheriff meekly remonstrated.

"I sympathize with your attitude," said the prosecutor to the mob, "but I'm afraid you'll get into trouble."

The next day, the sheriff said he hadn't recognized a single member of the mob.

The youthful victim was arrested as a suspect after a white girl had reported that on a road 26 miles from the town a Negro had attempted to attack her. There was no jury trial. There was not even an indictment.

Sen. Huey Long was one of the Southern senators who shouted loudly about states' rights and prevented action on the anti-lynching bill. Does anyone believe the Kingfish will now have his governor enforce the state law? Hardly. It is easier to talk about a state's rights than to meet a state's responsibilities.

COLUMBUS, O.
CITIZEN

JUL 12 1934

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TOLEDO, O.
NEWS-BEE

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YOUNGSTOWN, O.
TELEGRAM

JUL 13 1934

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ST. LOUIS, MO.
GLOBE DEMOCRAT

JUL 14 [illegible]

NEGRO WOMEN APPEAL FOR U. S. LYNCH LAW

The Illinois Association of Colored Women adopted resolutions favoring a federal antilynch law with teeth in it at its annual convention which has just closed in Lincoln High School, 1100 Broadway, East St. Louis. Every club in the association has been asked to write letters to President Roosevelt asking him to stress in his message to the incoming Congress the passage of such a law. The work of the United States Senators Costigan and Wagner against lynchings was indorsed and messages of appreciation ordered sent to them.

Chicago was chosen as the next place of meeting. Mrs. Carrie Horton, Chicago, was elected president; Mrs. Sadie Adams, Chicago; Mrs. Anna Vanderburgh, Decatur, Ill.; Mrs. Alice Charlton, Madison, Ill., vice presidents; Mrs. Daisy Syker, Carbondale, Ill., recording secretary; Mrs. Nannie Mae Williams Chicago, executive secretary; Mrs. Minnie Roach, Chicago, treasurer; Mrs. Anna Wood, Carbondale, parliamentarian; Mrs. Alice Mason, Chicago, statistician; Mrs. Irene Gaines, Chicago, chairman Executive Board; Mrs. Luaco Gladden, East St. Louis, vice chairman; Mrs. Elizabeth Williams, Chicago, historian; Mrs. Irene Moore, Chicago, organizer.

MODESTO, CALIF.
NEWS HERALD

JUL 9 1934

These Negro Killers Should Be Hanged

Sometimes it appears that we are not so far from the stone age.

Take the story that comes from Manchester, Tenn. A group of white men went to a Negro dance in that city and made some trouble, during which one of them was slapped by a resentful Negro.

The courageous whites went to the latter's home and wrecked it. Then they bravely returned to the dance, seized their unarmed and defenseless victim, took off his clothes, beat him unmercifully, and then, with a last display of Caucasian valor, shot him to death.

This was murder as dastardly as it was cowardly.

Eight of the alleged killers are in jail. It is to be hoped they will be convicted of first degree murder and hanged.

Dreadful incidents of this kind should remind Americans how far we are yet from actually achieving that equality before the law—that respect for individual right to life and the pursuit of happiness—of which we so love to talk but which we sometimes so shamefully forget in practice.

LOWELL, MASS.
COURIER CITIZEN

JUN 6 1934

A governor without presidentia aspirations does not have to b popular beyond the boundary line of his own state. The late Jame Rolph jr., is best known outside o California for his attitude regardin two matters on which there is wide difference of opinion in th country at large; but the chance are that the people of Californi would have stood by him and give him a re-election if his health ha allowed him to run again. These two matters, needless to say, were his approval of the lynching of two peculiarly wicked kidnappers, and his refusal to pardon Tom Mooney. We hardly suppose that Governor Rolph's successor will, if occasion arises, take the same position with regard to lynching. Another affair of such a lawless character would injure the reputation of the state altogether too much, and Californians themselves might feel that one lynching in a generation was a plenty. As to Mooney, the chances are that as shrewd a politician as Governor Rolph showed himself to be throughout his career would not have refused to pardon this doubtfully guilty convict, if there has not been a strong sentiment against mercy—or belated justice, if Mooney was really innocent. Apparently the pressure brought from outside to effect the pardon of Mooney and also Billings has made Californians more rather than less determined to keep them in custody; but undoubtedly that pressure will be renewed now that Governor Rolph has passed from the scene.

DAYTON, O.
NEWS

MAR 1 3 1934

Natural Law

When Louis Adamic was writing his book, "The Native's Return," he found himself in an awkward dilemma. When in Jugoslavia he was given a story of how a workman was imprisoned and tortured by Dictator King Alexander and his party. It was such a graphic account of the dark side of Belgrade's terrorism that he wished to include it; and yet so horrible that he feared to do so lest he offend his readers. He compromised by having it published alone in pamphlet form under the title "Struggle."

Appended to "Struggle" is a protest addressed to the Jugoslavian minister at Washington against this mediaeval treatment of political prisoners. Among its signers are William Allen White, Richard Simon and Lincoln Schuster, publishers, and Mrs. Paxton Hibben whose husband was a close friend of King Alexander's father.

The Balkans, long a sore spot in Europe's side, show signs of festering again. Who can predict the outcome?

A year ago Chancellor Dollfuss of Austria eliminated parliament. That was serious enough but now he shelves the Austrian constitution and explains that he is "ruling by natural law which stands above the constitution."

What is natural low? It can be almost anything. When King Alexander tortures the Jugoslavian in order to learn some secret he is ruling by natural law. If Dollfuss finds some objectionable Austrian he can take off his head. That would constitute natural law. When frenzied mobs put to death Charles I, Louis XVI and the Romanoffs, they were ruling by natural law in preference to constitutional law. When a mob gathers in California, Missouri, Maryland or anywhere else and lynches a prisoner that is natural law.

To all who rule by natural law it means but one thing—death to everybody who stands in the road. Natural law outlaws constitutions, representative government, a free press and free speech as well as liberty and life. Natural law is the oldest type of law—the kind practiced by all savage, depraved and unenlightened people.

New Bedford, Mass.
MERCURY

AUG 1 5 1934

News of another lynching outrage comes from Michigan City Mississippi, where two Negroes were taken from deputy sheriffs and hanged, in reprisal for the killing of two white men. One of these mob assassinations was particularly reprehensible, in that the victim, Robert Jones, had been saved by the State Supreme Court from a legal execution. While investigating the murder of Connie Gillispie, which occurred more than a year ago, Deputy Sheriff Mark Mason went to Jones's house. In an attempt to enter, he was shot and fatally wounded by Jones, who said he did not know the intruder was an officer. After Jones had been convicted and sentenced to be hanged, the Supreme Court reversed the findings and ordered a new trial, holding that a man's home, "however humble, is his castle," and that the officer had no right to invade it without a search warrant.

Each of the men lynched was taken by a mob from the custody of two deputies who were transporting them to Ashland for trial. There is nothing in the press reports that indicates even a show of resistance by the officers who were under oath to protect their prisoners. The judge who was to have presided at the trial has ordered the grand jury to make a thorough investigation; the sheriff has promised "to do his best to find the guilty partier," and the matter will probably end there. Thus mob law over-rides the orders of the Supreme Court in Mississippi.

Jewish Daily Bulletin
N.Y.

JUL 29 193

Compare Lynchings, Pogroms

Jewish pogroms in Czarist Russia were compared to Negro lynchings in "Imperialist United States" by Merrill C. Work, editor of the "Negro Liberator," who addressed about fifty members and guests of the Columbia University World Problems Club at a special meeting to protest against Negro discrimination.

LAFAYETTE, IND.
JOURNAL & COURIER

AUG 15

ANOTHER LYNCHING

A Mississippi prosecutor says he will see to it that a double lynching of accused but untried Negroes is investigated. The court has asked ~~the~~ grand jury to go into their affair. Which may or may not mean Mississippi is making progress in connection with the lynching blight. Developments in the field of law, order and justice will be watched. What will be the sequel? Will ordered Society get a break, or will this tragic outrage be just another double lynching to be tabulated as a new smirch on the 1934 criminal record?

DES MOINES, IA.
REGISTER

AUG 2 3 1934

THE LYNCH TRADITION IN MISSISSIPPI.

Mississippi, as consistently as any area of the south, sticks to the traditions of the south.

One of the most firmly established of these traditions is that when a Mississippi mob meets a squad of Mississippi deputy sheriffs escorting a Negro prisoner to or from jail or courthouse, it is tacitly understood that the officers are "overpowered," that they fail utterly to recognize any members of the mob, that the prisoner has already confessed to a crime against a white person, and that the prosecuting attorney's perfunctory pronouncement of the following morning will declare that everything possible will be done to apprehend and punish the lynchers according to law.

So meticulous in observance of this quaint old Mississippi tradition are the mobsters of that state that two lynching parties were able the other night to time their performances perfectly to coincide, though the two groups of officers entered the same county from opposite sides, and the victims were hanged from the same tree, midway between the points at which the "overpowerings" were staged.

This is a nice regard for social inheritance but it serves again to illustrate that we receive from our forefathers other traditional bequests as useless as the buttons on a man's coat sleeves.

What is there, for instance, in the record of the Mississippi courts' treatment of Negro defendants to warrant preservation of this ancient custom of getting out of bed at midnight to go to some more or less lonely spot on the road to "overpower" deputies and hang Negroes whom the court would certainly condemn to death the next day during business hours if given the opportunity?

Mississippi's courts do not deserve such lack of confidence. They too are victims of tradition.

PHILADELPIA, PA.
RECORD

AUG 28

LYNCHING BRANDED SHAME OF NATION

Senator Kean Tells Negro Elks He Will Push New Law in Congress.

By JOSEPH H. RAINEY

ATLANTIC CITY, Aug. 27.—Lynching was branded today as the shame of a nation by U. S. Senator Hamilton F. Kean, of New Jersey. Senator Kean welcomed, on behalf of New Jersey, the Negro Elks from all parts of the country who are attending the thirty-fifth annual convention of the Improved Benevolent Protective Order of Elks of the World.

The Elks were officially welcomed to the city by Mayor Harry A. Bacharach. He presented the key to the city to J. Finley Wilson, grand exalted ruler of the largest Negro fraternal order in the world.

Senator Kean, whose anti-lynching bill did not reach the floor of Congress during the last session, vigorously attacked mob violence. As soon as Congress convenes, he said, he will introduce another bill which would stamp out "this country's greatest evil."

Up to Government.

"The Government of the United States must take full responsibility for securing murder convictions and death sentences for all guilty members of a lynching mob," he declared.

No local constables or Judges in secret sympathy with lynching mobs should be permitted to handle mob cases, he asserted, adding that lynching should be made a crime against the United States and the Department of Justice should be given authority to arrest every guilty member of a lynch mob.

In his bill, to be introduced in the new Congress, the county where a lynching occurs would be forced to pay $10,000 to the family of the lynched person.

Henry Re-election Seen.

The baccalaureate session of the grand lodge was held this morning. Tonight the national oratorical contest was held. The winner will be announced tomorrow. Representatives of six districts from all parts of the country took part in the contest. The winner will be awarded $1000 in cash and a scholarship to any college or university in the North.

Chances for re-election of Edward W. Henry, Philadelphia Magistrate, as grand treasurer brightened today as Wilson acknowledged the setting up of the new Chris J. Perry Lodge in Philadelphia. But he ruled the new lodge cannot accept members of either the O. V. Catto Lodge, in Philadelphia, which Henry heads, or the Quaker City Lodge unless the members have been behind in their dues for at least 18 months. John Freeman, of Quaker City Lodge, Philadelphia, appeared certain of retaining his office as grand esquire.

Bacharach Praises Race.

Mayor Bacharach pleaded for fair treatment of Negroes throughout New Jersey. He said better treatment is accorded the group in this city than any other in the country. Intelligent Negroes, he said, should be placed on the board of education in every city where there is a large number of Negroes.

Other speakers included Harold Hoffman, New Jersey Commissioner of Vehicles and Republican candidate for Governor; Isaac Nutter, Atlantic county Negro leader; Charles W. Thompkins, recorder of deeds in Washington; William S. Cuthbert, director of public safety; Colonel Arthur Little, of New York; Perry Howard, of Mississippi, grand legal adviser of the Elks; William C. Hueston, Elk commissioner of education; Magistrate Henry Wilson and J. C. Thomas, of White House Lodge, Atlantic City.

The annual parade tomorrow will be viewed by Governor A. Harry Moore.

Lynchings - 1934
&
Discussions -

White Press, Northern.

4575

New York Evening Post

JUN 23 1934

The Lyons Den

By LEONARD LYONS

WHITE MAN SUPREME

"KIRBYVILLE, Tex., June 21 (AP).—Two hundred white men last night took Son Griggs, Negro, thirty, from officers and hanged him after he had been seen in the company of a seventeen-year-old white girl.

"The mob stopped an automobile of officers as they took the Negro to Orange for safekeeping, threw a rope around his neck, dragged him from the car and hanged him.

"Seventeen shots struck him as he dangled in the air. The crowd cut the body down and dragged it over the country behind an automobile, then left it near the door of a box factory commissary."

* * *

The supreme white man . . . He took his dark-skinned brother from the jungle wilds and enslaved him. For centuries he took a human being and bent him, body and soul, to his will. Worked him, whipped him . . . stamped him as a mere chattel, unheeding the tenets of reason. There was bloodshed in the white man's house until Truth allegedly was victorious, and it was admitted that all men are created equal. Civilization must progress, you see. But when the news item quoted above is milled in the wheels of centuries the grist will be a human paradox to historians.

Gentlemen of Texas—we salute you! That lynching was a brave and noble deed. Perhaps soon a publicity-mad columnist again will write in praise of this quaint American custom, welcoming the news that once more Righteousness has triumphed. Flower of the Southlands, thy virtue is unblemished. Thus have you blazed the trail that lead to white supremacy.

A rope around his neck; hanged from a tree; seventeen shots imbedded in his writhing body as he dangled in the blue of the fragrant Texan air—for the infamous crime of being seen in the company of a white girl. That is an unforgivable transgression, isn't it—protectors of American womanhood? But how many of you have been seen in the company of Negro girls? You call them wenches because their skin is dark and laughter is in their eyes. You judge, but won't be judged. And why wasn't the white girl lynched, too? If you vent your mob-fury as an object lesson to spiritual miscegenation, make a complete job of it. But no; the white man is brave. Two hundred of them arrayed themselves against the overwhelming forces of one lone Negro, who probably never once crossed the shadows of their sacred sidewalk. Two hundred guardians of a ruthless primitive creed braved the darkness of the night and had themselves a helluva necktie party. There was a hot time in the old town that night. Boy, that'll show 'em. Accompanying a white girl, eh? What's the South comin' to, anyway? Burn him; rope him; shoot him; lynch him!

* *

Supreme white man...whose deep concern is the latest angle to an Astor romance; who listens avidly to the ridiculous flaunting of every dictate of romantic decency on the part of an untoiling and unspinning money-flushed youth—you forget too quickly these blots upon American history and the alleged progress of civilization. How easily a simple, innocent occurrance can revert you to the primitive. Knowledge and advancement fade into insignificance at the lyncher's call.

THE AMERICAN SCENE

Perhaps one man's life doesn't matter in the greater scheme of things. But another woman, whose complexion was a bit darker, once went down into the depths to give him being—being that was snuffed out by savage hungers and cruel ignorance. He was nursed and petted and raised as other humans are. But because Chance gave him dark skin he was destined to bear an overburden. Race is an accident of birth; and no accident merits such consequence, of all-engulfing doom.

The supreme white man . . . steeped in prejudice and primal instinct; taking a bit of quivering misery and stringing him up without cause. Death—for *being seen* with a white woman, who didn't seem to mind: It's a colossal mockery, for thousands of these supreme beings stand on the street corners in thousands of cities and accost thousands of women who resent advances. They chortle and boast at the memories of their conquests, these chivalrous chamberlains of virtue's seal.

We make no light of gloried womanhood, but along the avenues of any locality their women can be seen in the company of men who seldom seek the simple pleasures. By a lesser token, lynch them, too!

* * *

"When the sheriff's office was warned a mob intended to break into the jail, officers decided to take Griggs to Orange," the report read. "The mob met the officers seven miles from Kirbyville, threatened them with firearms and forced them to drive on after the Negro was seized."

Again we bow to the majesty of the white man's law and to the valiant officers who are dedicated to its observance. Between the lines you can read of the great struggle waged in pursuance of their sworn duties. They were threatened with firearms and so relinquished their prisoner. The supreme white man shall not endanger his precious skin to protect one of a darker hue. He is his brother's keeper—but woe to the one who is color blind. This is the protection afforded by an American community to one of its citizens.

Supposing a white man was seen in the company of a Harlem Negress. Suppose also that a Harlem mob received that white man from the tendering hands of the police—and lynched him. That's the real picture by which to measure the shallow depths of our social progress. A double standard is the only way of balancing inequalities . . .

* * *

Gentlemen of Texas—we salute you! Supreme white men who assume divine rights and usurp the power of life and death—hold high your heads in gloried pride. You who are more savage than your victim's ancestors ever were—who have stamped upon and taken the soul of a mortal being, sullied be thy name.

How long can this last? How much longer can bigotry and ignorance ride the crest? Surely there must be a tide of Reason to sweep away this flotsam of inequality. Ignorance and impassioned cruelty . . . beating the laughter from a darky's soul. Man's inhumanities . . .

Vive Americana—dumped on the floor of a Southland commissary! White man supreme!

Trash

MOSCOW, IDAHO
DAILY STAR-MIRROR

JUN 27 1934

A Negro Is Lynched

A 35-year-old negro was hauled out from a Tennessee dance hall Saturday night, stripped of his clothing, shot half a dozen times dragged over the country side and left, by the side of the road, a mutilated and battered hulk of black flesh.

His crime: He had gotten into an argument with a white man at the dance hall, a dance hall operated for the benefit of negroes.

The black man (this was in Tennessee) was prohibited from entering a dance hall catering to white trade. And here he was, enjoying himself in a dance hall operated for negroes. The white men (there were half a dozen) were not, however, prohibited from entering the dance hall built for the pleasure of the negroes.

They went there. ~~It is~~ considered a great lark for "slumming parties" to go to Harlem dance halls and night clubs in New York. But let a negro try to get a look-in on one of Broadway's night clubs.

Again, these white men went to the negro dance hall. One of them got into an argument with a certain negro. The negro got the best of the argument—physically. The white man thereupon went to the negro's home, tore up everything in sight, returned to the dance hall. They dragged the unfortunate black to their automobile. They took him to the country. They literally shot him to pieces. Then they mutilated the body.

People looking for trouble usually can find it. The white men are said to have been identified. They will face murder charges, probably be freed by a white jury of Tennessee "peers."

NYACK, N. Y.
JOURNAL

JUN 27 1934

WOMEN AND LYNCHING

The presence of a woman in the Cabinet of President Roosevelt for the first time in American history is a satisfying piece of evidence that women approach equal rights with men. If, however, women intend to use such rights to participate in mobs, as they appear to have done in the lynching of a Negro at Kirbyville, Texas, is the victory proving to be worth the price?

The Negro had been arrested for associating with a white woman, vagrancy and keeping a disorderly house. Informed that a mob was forming, the sheriff dispatched two deputies with the prisoner to Orange for safe keeping. On the road the mob overtook them. One reads that "the crowd of men and women . . . threw a rope around the neck of the Negro and ordered the officers to drive on." After the hanging the crowd riddled the body with bullets and then "tied it with another rope to the rear of an automobile, dragging it about the countryside until after midnight."

One should not too hastily judge the difficult racial conditions that exist in some areas. Such conditions, however, cannot justify lapses by white men and women into barbarism. The law was in possession in Kirbyville. So the people of Kirbyville mistrust their law? If they do, then they should reform it. They cannot successfully replace it with lynch law. California tried lynching as a deterrent to kidnaping. The man who then was California's governor praised the lynching and held it up as an example of direct action designed to put the fear of public revenge in every potential kidnaper's breast. But it was not long before California was the scene of another kidnaping.

There can be no successful law that is not civilized in design and equally civilized in enforcement. Lynch law is uncivilized and consequently must be regarded only as a makeshift to which resort must be taken in areas where society is not organized according to civilization's ordinary tenets. If the Kirbyville area of Texas is still an unorganized community, the Kirbyville lynchers, men and women, are, of course, not subject to criticism.

The McCloud Lynching

Daily Worker

7-12-34

New York

IN THE horrible lynching of Andrew McCloud, young Negro farmer, Monday night in Louisiana, the leading role of the white ruling class and its law enforcement officials in inciting and carrying through the lynch terror against the Negro masses is again clearly revealed.

The United Press dispatch on the crime admits that Attorney F. W. Hawthorne expressed open sympathy for the aims of the lynch gang, stating to the mob battering down the prison doors:

> **"I sympathize with your attitude, but I'm afraid you'll get into trouble."**

Hawthorne has refused to take any action toward indicting the lynch leaders he egged on to their bestial crime. Sheriff Carpenter and two of his deputies have suddenly lost their memory for familiar faces, stating they "recognized no member of the mob."

A coroner's jury will no doubt render the familiar verdict "death at the hands of persons unknown" to cover up the brutal crimes of the ruling class against the Negro people.

In the face of this consistent lynch incitement by the authorities, the N.A.A.C.P. leaders and other Negro and white reformists dare preach to the masses faith in the lynch courts and dependence on the ruling class to wipe out its lynch terror! The sinister purpose of this reformist propaganda is clearly to behead the rising mass fight against lynching. It is aimed at stemming the growing indignation of Negro and white workers against lynching and to block the revolutionary struggle against the blody rule of capitalism.

It is for this purpose that the N.A.A.C.P. leadership comes forward in this period with its milk-and-water Wagner-Costigan anti-lynching bill. No mass struggle against the lynchers, but paper "guarantees," by the lynchers say the would-be saviors of the rotting, decaying jim-crow capitalist system. Out of this traitorous attitude arose the base betrayal of George Crawford by the N.A.A.C.P. leaders and "defense" attorneys in the lynch courts of Virginia, and the persistent sabotage by the N.A.A.C.P. leadership of the mass fight to rescue the Scottsboro boys and Angelo Herndon.

In sharp contrast to this treacherous attitude of "no struggle against the lynchers," is the militant mass fight led by the League of Struggle for Negro Rights against the lynch-murderers and for the passage of its "Bill for Civil Rights for Negroes and Against Lynching." Unlike the bill sponsored by the N.A.A.C.P., the L.S.N.R. bill provides for the death sentence against the lynchers, and is backed by a program calling for mass pressure on the authorities and the lynch courts to enforce this and other provisions of the bill.

This latest hideous lynch-murder must arouse every sincere opponent of lynching and Negro oppression to intensified struggle against lynching and for the passage and enforcement of the L.S.N.R. bill. Flood Governor Allen, at Baton Rouge, La. with protests demanding the arrest and punishment of the lynch leaders, and of District Attorney Hawthorne and other law enforcement officers who aided and abetted the crime. Intensify the fight for the freedom of the nine Scottsboro boys and Angelo Herndon, tortured in prison and in daily danger of death at the hands of the Southern lynch rulers!

PROVIDENCE, R. I.
BULLETIN

JUN 13 193[illegible]

The Prevalent Demand for "Quick Justice" Leads to the Peremptoru Methods of Fascism

Carey McWilliams
in
The American Mercury

Fear of a rising Fascist movement has, within the last year, transformed American social observers into a self-constituted posse for the discovery of khaki and silver-shirted legions. Sound as this instinctive apprehension may be, it is unfortunate that the posse has not been guided by a more realistic understanding of the social tendency which they have been straining every faculty to detect.

In an uncritical and credulous manner, they have dubbed all untoward social phenomena Fascism. But Fascism, contrary to such naive notions, does not invariably wear a uniform. It may parade in the cloak of conservatives, and, more frequently, in the guise of reform itself.

The powerful, concerted, nation-wide drive for a summary criminal procedure points to the appearance of an unmistakably Fascist sentiment in this country.

Fascism is, of course, coercion. It is anti-parliamentary; it cannot be reconciled with any form of constitutional grovernment, however flexible the particular constitutional limitations may be. Fascism delights in boasting of the swiftness with which it executes the public will as represented in the person of the dictator; likewise, it glories in the fact that it strikes the accused criminal but one blow, for a Fascist arrest is tantamount to conviction. With Fascism, in fact, arrest, conviction, and sentence, are embraced in one process. Fascist criminal justice is indeed "summary." And so is a lynching.

With a lynching, there is no opportunity for delay, for the shyster lawyer to practice his mysterious "technicalities," for juries to disagree. Fascist criminal justice involves the appropriation of the technique of lynching under the thinnest possible guise of governmental regulation.

LYNCHING AND FASCISM

Where with us criminal law reform was formerly a harmless subject for the entertainment of legislative committees, it has now, in a time of great emotional stress, become a popular fanaticism. The cry for summary criminal justice, generally uttered by those still hoarse from shouting at a lynching, is unquestionably the voice of Fascism. What the reformers have done is to provide a rising Fascist sentiment with an excuse for mob violence. Before considering a specific illustration of the manner in which this fraudulent reasoning operates, it is necessary to point out one or two of the unwarranted assumptions upon which popular criticism of the administration of criminal justice is predicated.

Reform of criminal justice in America has always been characterized by three major obsessions. The first consists in the belief that America is perennially in danger of engulfment by a "crime wave." If the hysterical editorial writers and cartoonists responsible for this obsession would consult the files of their own publication they would discover that the same "crime wave" dominated the headlines as early as 1900.

The simple truth is that there is no "crime wave" in America today. Messrs. Sutherland and Gehlke, in the excellent chapter on "Crime and punishment" in "Recent Social Trends in the United States," after a sober survey of the volume of crime in America from 1900 to 1932 and a close consideration of the complex social factors involved, came to the conclusion that "no support is found for the belief that an immense crime wave has engulfed the United States—the figures do not indicate that crime has swept over the country like a tidal wave."

Crime has not swept over the country; it has merely swept over the newspapers of the country. So extensively has the legend been propagated that it is no longer possible even to gain a hearing for the idea that the crime-wave terrorists are spouting nonsense.

The second major obsession of criminal justice reform is that harsh sentences, quickly applied, have a tendency to deter the commission of criminal acts. To assert publicly that the severity or leniency of sentence, the swiftness or tardiness of its application, are factors which sustain no necessary relation to the volume of crime, is to be dubbed a legal sophist or blind theorist. Yet, in the report cited above, it appears that the potential penalty authorized by law is generally more severe now than it was thirty years ago.

The two foregoing assumptions are inextricably associated with a third: that criminal justice in America is an obsolete, archaic, ramshackle system, full of easy loopholes and groving at the leisurely speed of a porpoise.

Americans for many years to come will devoutly believe (a) that their country is about to be engulfed by a crime wave; and (b) that the cure for this situation is a more severe and expeditious administration of criminal justice.

The so-called "reforms" now proposed in California have the secret motivation of converting a trial into a lynching. The Californians seem unmindful of Anatole France's definition of justice as the administration of force, or Samuel Butler's remark that it was the regulation of revenge. At best there is only a slight formal distinction between a trial and a lynching; we cannot afford to jeopardize what remains of our sense of decorum by starting now to punish criminals by methods indistinguishable from those of lynchers.

It is safe to generalize that the growth of judicial Fascism proceeds in this manner: popular discontent, largely of economic origin, seizes upon academic criticism of the courts and the common law as a justification for mob violence. The fact that this criticism is founded on unwarranted assumptions is not only ignored, but the assumptions themselves are elevated to the lofty eminence of dogma. Then "an aroused public opinion," reacting upon the vote-conscious jurists and other cheap opportunists, puts the bench, bar, and legislature on the defence and sets in motion forces which compete with one another in their eagerness to convert criminal justice into summary process for the conviction of the accused. The matter of emphasis is important; the quality of justice is not to be improved but the accused are to be speedily convicted. So much, then, for the growth of Fascism in the law. What consequences attend the process?

The most obvious consequence of Fascist tendencies in the law is to divert attention, by misplaced emphasis and false interpretation, from the factors which, in any national consideration of the problem of crime, should be studied. It will be recalled that Attorney General Cummings recently issued a statement calling upon the bar associations of the country "to clean house." The statement was moderate in expression and almost timorous in content. But I had occasion to follow it through the press.

During the process of being related to the public, it underwent a remarkable transformation. It was used as a pretext for advocating the following reforms: suppression of the right of the accused to counsel, the protection of attorneys who would knowingly represent a guilty person, elimination of freedom from self-incrimination, and abolition of the jury system. Attorney General Cummings's statement provoked an almost unanimous newspaper opinion that the "criminal lawyer" was somehow responsible for the "crime wave."

CRIMINAL LAWYER NOT CAUSE OF CRIME

The shyster criminal lawyer would vanish overnight if crime decreased; he is a consequence of the existence of crime, not its cause. Popular opinion reflected by the newspapers, diverts attention from the character of the social order of which such a crime as kidnaping is merely a symptom. The pursuit of the popular theory leads not to a solution of the problem of crime, but to the road to Fascism. "Quick justice" and the barbaric methods of Hitler have very much in common.

The unfortunate effect of Fascism in the law is to put the law on the defensive; to place it, and not the civilization of which it is merely a manifestation, on trial.

Abolish the jury system by such dishonest indirection as attempting to "make it more efficient," frighten the bar into an attitude of complete subserviency to "the agencies of law enforcement," reform criminal procedure so as to make conviction certain and swift, and you will have forged a weapon for the suppression of recalcitrant minorities which is now the curse of Hitler's Germany.

After all, the organization of Storm Troop brigades is merely the German way of dealing with minorities. In this country, being a self-righteous people, we merely have to convert the courts into Storm Troop units in order to achieve Fascism in practice. This can be easily done, for it will divert attention from our own disposition to lawlessness and, at the same time, give the appearance of decency to our own private conception of mob violence. Under the guise of reforming our criminal law we are rapidly fashioning an excellent instrument for the use of the new terrorists, whoever they may be. The great State of California, as usual in such things, is in the lead.

Only the other day the Riverside County Bar Association unanimously voted a resolution to refuse "knowingly and intentionally" to defend a Communist in court. In Los Angeles two men were convicted and sentenced to the gallows under a fancy new statute which provides that if, in the commission of a robbery, the victim is moved, under threat of arms, ever so slightly, the offence may be punished under a new law making kidnaping punishable by death.

Lynchings-1934

Discussions.

White Press, Northern.

4576

CLEVELAND, O.
PLAIN DEALER

MAR 18 1934

Lynching and Federal Law.

Editor Plain Dealer—Sir: United States Senator Robert F. Wagner of New York recently told the Senate judiciary committee that "only the United States can stop lynching with anti-lynching legislation." Presumably the senator had reference to lynching throughout the country and not in any particular state. State legislation has stopped lynching in the north to the minimum (as much as can be expected from any law).

The United States will never be able to stop lynching in the south even with federal anti-lynching legislation, providing, of course, the United States Supreme Court adjudges said legislation constitutional. Some of the country's most eminent jurists and statesmen for more than 25 years have declared a constitutional federal anti-lynching law an impossibility because the regulation of mob violence comes under the head of police power of the various states and therefore the state only has the right to legislate against the same. Senator Wagner's other statement that "states have failed in trying to curb mobs" is only applicable to those in the south. It is not true of a number of states in the north, like Ohio, Illinois, Pennsylvania and New Jersey that have effective mob violence acts or anti-lynch-murder laws.

Cleveland. HARRY C. SMITH.

WASHINGTON, D. C.
POST

MAR 19 1934

Not A Question Of Law.

Nobody would deny that the hearings before the Senate subcommittee on the Wagner-Costigan Federal antilynching bill have publicized deplorable facts. With the Eastern Shore of Maryland as one of the worst examples, the country has had emphasized what it already knew: that there has been a resurgence of extra-legal punishment and that there has been shamefully lax enforcement of laws.

All that may be granted readily, but it does not wipe away the underlying objection to the Federal antilynch law. This is that no matter how ineffective, local authority is the most potent instrument for dealing with lynching and lynchers. Punishment in any event depends upon local sentiment. It is a mistake to assume that the threat to punish a county in which a lynching takes place will have any value as a preventive. The only real preventive is a sentiment aroused against lynching as barbaric, antisocial and anticivilized. Such sentiment is not achieved by law; it comes from education.

Those who observe social trends do not find the growth of mob violence surprising at such a time as this. And it is not proven that the temporary lapse is adequate reason to abandon the educational method in favor of one which offers even less hope of success than the experiment in prohibition. To enact a Federal antilynching law would be to make much the same mistake the temperance advocates made: they abandoned education and gradual contraction of a social evil in favor of a rush movement to obtain a statute. Laws are much easier to obtain than enlightenment of local sentiment. They are also much less effective.

COLUMBIA, MO.
MISSOURIAN

MAR 7 1934

Lynching Not Chivalrou

CONTRARY to popular belief, lynchings are not motivated by a desire to be chivalrous. In 1918, of a total of sixty-two lynchings, only sixteen were for criminal assault. Over a period of half a century, men and women have been lynched for crimes no more serious than hog stealing, "creating disturbances," quarreling with employers, failing to turn out of the road, and "not knowing their places." And in the half century there have been five thousand lynchings.

The seriousness of lynching becomes clearer when it is seen that, with a marked decline in the last decade, 1933 has marked a new high. There were twenty-six lynchings in the United States in 1933. Various reasons have been given for this. With the depression in its fourth year, competition for jobs was very great. With this came determination of certain forces, particularly in the South, to force the Negro to accept wage differentials based on race and a lower economic status under the N. R. A. This may or may not be a cause of Negro lynchings.

Under the constitution, the federal government has little power at present to check the barbarous crime. Punishment is left almost entirely to individual states. State control is not effective because peace officers, fearful of the political result, find means of dodging the issue.

The fact that the number of lynchings jumped from eight in 1932 to twenty-six in 1933 is cause for alarm. It is time for people to wake to the fact that lynchings do not point toward a higher civilization. It may be true that crimes committed by some of the offenders merit punishment. But the courts of the United States are here just for that purpose.

The Costigan-Wagner anti-lynching bill now before the Senate Judiciary committee would make lynching a federal offense. It is very similar to the Dyer bill which was killed in the Senate by a filibuster of southern senators in 1922. These senators claimed that lynching is a state problem and does not merit federal intervention. However, southern states have not done much to curb the crime. Twenty-three of the twenty-six lynchings in 1933 were committed in southern states, and the other three were in states on the border, Missouri and California.

It is to be hoped that southern senators wil keep this fact in mind when voting on the Costigan-Wagner bill. Lynchings must be curbed; and if federal action is the only effective means, then federal action we should have.

SAN FRANCISCO, CAL.
CHRONICLE

MAR 10 1934

Motive of Lynching

THE FICTION that the cause of lynching is the failure of the law is again refuted, in Mississippi, where the Senate has just passed a law to make it possible for the father of the victim of three Negro gangsters personally to spring the trap at their execution. The father had saved them from lynching by promising the mob that he would do this.

The question in this case was not what should be done to these criminals. They were already sentenced to be hanged. The only question was who should do the hanging. And the mob refrained from doing it only on condition that the legal hanging should include the element of personal revenge—which is exactly what the law is intended to eliminate.

In other words, the motive of lynching is to wreak vengeance personally. In the South it is also the principle that the Negro is responsible, not to the law, but to the white man. The law is impersonal. It is neither white nor black, and it imposes penalty, not revenge. Even if the penalty is the same, and equally prompt, it does not satisfy the instincts of the mobsters. They demand, not merely the life of the victim, but the satisfaction of taking it themselves.

If we will clearly realize that this is what makes lynchings we shall at least not fuddle the discussion with fictions.

COLUMBUS, O.
OHIO STATE JOURNAL

JUN 25 1934

Mob Fury.

THOSE who have made it a business to keep the details of American lynchings have exploded the old belief that the majority of those who have been victims of mobs have been attackers and insulters of white women. As a matter of fact, much fewer than 10 per cent of those lynched are accused of offenses even remotely resembling such crimes.

Despite the growth of enlightenment in America, and the publishing of facts regarding lynching, also despite the fact that many of those who are lynched are later found innocent and that practically all of those who are accused are arrested and started toward a trial, which in the case of a Negro in the southern states is almost always certain to result in conviction, lynching goes on.

Mob law is never right, never necessary, never corrective of crime. It is unreasoning and more often defeats justice. But, if there ever is excuse for it, there certainly is none to justify taking a prisoner from the arresting officers, or to break down a jail and drag him out to a mob-inflicted death.

Down in Texas a mob took a Negro from the sheriff and his officers, hanged him, shot him full of holes and then dragged him behind an automobile through the streets. The crime of which he was accused was associating with a white woman, and she was arrested on vagrancy charges.

Of course, the question naturally will arise as to who was more guilty, under the circumstances, the Negro man or the white girl, and, also of course, there can be but one answer. This man was not guilty, it seems, of attack or insult, but he became a victim of a mob because the white woman permitted him to associate with her.

America grows indignant, and rightfully so, when it reads of wrongs and cruelties that occur in Russia, Germany, China, India or perhaps some other distant point, but just shrugs its shoulders when the morning newspaper brings the story of a southern lynching.

Lynching is a thing to be deplored, prevented if possible, and punished if convictions can be had. The lyncher, no matter how much he may justify himself, is not a whit better than his victim.

TROY, N. Y.
EVENING RECORD

MAY 25 1934

TWO GOVERNORS.

Slight distinctions sometimes make grave differences. Many a will has been declared void because of a comma; and it was the forgery by Bismarck of a single word in a telegram which made the Franco-Prussian war.

Thus the whole nation was outraged last November when Governor Rolph of California praised the mob which stormed the San Jose jail and took two kidnapers and murderers out of the cells to lynch them. People everywhere felt that Rolph was morally an accessory after the fact. He favored emotional violence, anarchistic excess, the negation of law when passions were uncontrolled.

Yet this week the Governor of Louisiana gave similar praise to six men who ambushed a man and a woman and shot them down in cold blood. And the country, with similar unanimity, supported his position.

Why the varying response?

Because of one of those slight distinctions which mean so much. The mob lynching which Governor Rolph praised was illegal, an appeal to the lowest instincts. Justice had been taking its course and injustice had not been called upon for assistance. But the homicide which Governor Allen praised was legal, an appeal to the highest instincts of law and order. Justice was participating in the ambush. Here were criminals who could not be arrested and punished because they were armed and murderous. It was life for life and the safety of the citizens of the country demanded either their capture or their extermination. As they would not permit the former without a bloody fight the latter was necessary. It was part of police duty, whereas the lynching in California, if Governor Rolph had been an honest and efficient executive, should have been followed by the condign punishment of the mob leaders.

Wilmington N C
New Dispatch
June 22, 1934

LYNCHING NOTE

The Texas mob which Thursday wrote another chapter into the lynching history of the country by dragging a Negro from an automobile loaded with deputies, and summarily executing him.

The Negro's offense was association with a White woman, who was arrested at the same time on charges of vagrancy.

At this distance it appears as a sorry bit of work even for a lynching. If it is the duty of a mob to deal with questions of moral turpitude, it would appear in this case that it made no effort to touch the main offender. White women guilty of the charges against her are hardly worth the trouble of a lynching.

JACKSON, MISS.
NEWS

JUN 15 1934

NEGRO GROUP SCORES DELTA MOB LYNCHING

Wires Demanding "Immediate Prosecution" of Officers for Hangings

A report of officers, showing that they did everything humanly possible to protect two negroes who confessed to a criminal attack on a 19-year-old white girl, was revealed by Governor Conner here today, after receiving a telegram from the Frederick Douglass branch, League of Struggle for Negro Rights, New York City, demanding "immediate prosecution" of the mob members.

"Protest lynching two negro youths, demand immediate prosecution of officers of law and mob, hold you personally responsible," the wire said.

Governor Conner, who some months ago went to considerable expense for the state to protect from a mob three negroes executed at Hernando for a similar offense, pointed out today that he knew nothing of the Quitman county affair in which Joe Love and Isaac Thomas, each 25, were strung up, until the negroes had been hanged.

The report of District Attorney Greek Rice who investigated the affair, said that the negroes confessed to the attack when the sheriff went to Greenwood, where they had been apprehended, to get them. Hearing rumors of mob action, the sheriff and party headed for the Jackson jail, but were cut off by the mob, and doubled back, only to be caught at a single bridge near Hushpuckna, where leaders of the mob shoved automatics in the faces of the officers and took the negroes away from them.

Atlanta, Ga. Constitution
June 19, 1934

COMMISSION ASSAILS MISSISSIPPI LYNCHING

The headquarters of the commission on interracial co-operation here Monday made public a letter from five Mississippi women to Governor Sennett Connor recommending that the next legislature enact a law that would automatically remove from office any officer from whom a prisoner is taken and lynched.

The letter was an outgrowth of a double lynching in Quitman county, Mississippi, on June 8.

It said the sheriff could have reached a jail well before nightfall and that, according to the report of the district attorney, though it was known that the citizens of the county were aroused, the prisoners were taken into the section where the alleged crime was committed.

The letter also said that District Attorney Greek Rice Jr., reported the case closed two hours after the bodies were cut down. It asked for a "reopening of this case for the purpose of clearing up these points which must appeal to all law-abiding citizens as in need of further investigation."

SAVANNAH, GA.
NEWS

JUN 14 1934

MAKE IT A NO-LYNCHING YEAR

The Valdosta Times calls attention to the fact that the good name of Georgia has not been marred with a lynching so far this year and expresses the hope that the slate will be clean for the entire year. It is an expression of hope in which all good citizens concur, yet it is doubtful whether respect for the courts of law have advanced so far in this state that a lynching would not occur if a situation arose such as the one last Friday in Mississippi when a mob took two negroes from the sheriff of Quitman county and lynched them. They were accused of assaulting the wife of a plantation manager.

The district attorney, it is reported, will make a "complete and thorough" investigation. But he is very much hampered with the report by the officers that members of the mob were "unknown" to them, this being the usual report made after a lynching.

As the Valdosta Times points out, there may be a time when mob law will no longer exist, but it is doubtful as long as some members of society think they can enforce the law better than the constituted authorities and the courts.

The mob spirit will wane only when the wheels of justice become better adjusted for administering speedy punishment to criminals and when the exercise of the pardoning power becomes less lax.

VALDOSTA, GA
TIMES

JUN 12 1934

MISSISSIPPI LYNCHING

Mob law thrust its head above the horizon last Friday night in the state of Mississippi. In the darkness of the delta country a mob took two negroes from the sheriff of Quitman county and lynched them.

The negroes were accused of assaulting the wife of a plantation manager. They were arrested by the sheriff of the county and lodged in jail.

When the mob began to stir the sheriff and his men decided to transfer them to a better jail. Taking the negroes in a car they began their journey to find a safe jail.

After wandering around on the Mississippi roads they encountered a mob, bent on taking the law in their own hands. With the excuse that he could not outtalk the members of the mob and because he and his men had only three pistols the sheriff "with great reluctance" turned his prisoners over to the gang.

When morning came the bodies of the two negroes were found by the officers suspended from a bridge. They had been lynched without ceremony as their bodies bore no signs of mutilation.

Now that the lynching is over the district attorney will make a "complete and thorough" investigation. But the attorney is very much hampered with the report by the officers that members of the mob were "unknown" to them. This is the usual report made after a lynching

There may be a time when mob law will no longer exixst, but it is doubtful as long as some members of society think that they can enforce the law better than the constituted authorities and the courts.

The good name of Georgia has not been marred with a lynching so far this year. It is hoped that the slate will be clean for the entire year.

White Press, Northern.

4577

Lynchings-1934
Discussion

PITTSBURGH, PA.
PRESS

DEC 23 1934

LYNCHING THE LAW

THE lynch mob which burned the courthouse at Shelbyville, Tenn., last Wednesday. was more logical than most mobs.

"They did not burn the prisoner; they burned the courthouse," comments the Memphis Press-Scimitar, a Scripps-Howard paper. The editorial continued:

"A community where a mob rules has no need of a courthouse. What need has a mob for trial, the judge, the jury, the careful search for truth and justice which the courthouse stands for—the law?

"The young men of Shelbyville were not slain by the soldiers, who did their manly duty of upholding the law. They were slain by the mob, which forced the soldiers to resistance to lawlessness. If they were spectators, they were murdered; if they were part of the mob, they committed suicide."

• • • •

THE Shelbyville incident, which cost three lives, has been a particularly illuminating demonstration of the objects, the methods and the sort of people who are responsible for mob violence.

The attack on the courthouse, in an effort to lynch a Negro prisoner, was utterly needless. The prisoner was already on trial. There was every prospect that he would be legally condemned to die. There had been no miscarraige of justice, no hesitation on the part of the authorities in proceeding against him.

The mob sought to lynch him out of a mere lust for revenge and butchery—because it was drunk, or hysterical or purely wanton.

• • • •

THERE are persons who try to condone lynching, on the grounds that it is prompted by the delays and uncertainties of the law; by the necessity of protecting womanhood; by self-preservation on the part of Southern whites, and other high-sounding reasons.

Those who have studied, or have witnessed, lynchings, know that none of these high-sounding reasons is responsible.

Mobs are made up of the dregs of the community where the lynching occurs. They are normally led by men who have little interest in the purity of womanhood or the preservation of race. They are inflamed by liberal supplies of liquor and foul talk, until hysteria takes control and mob psychology runs unchecked.

The writer, as a newspaper reporter, saw a Negro burned at stake some years ago, in Memphis. He was guilty of a terrible murder. But there was no cause to lynch him. He was captured, had confessed and was to be tried in a trial that would have been a mere formality. His execution was certain; nobody ever doubted that he would escape the electric chair.

But the mob had made up its mind to have a lynching—and it had one.

Men and women and even little children—thousands of them—cursed and screamed at the cringing man as he was bound to a stake—and lamented that there was too much gasoline used, that he died too fast, as the flames enveloped his body.

With his smoking bones still hot, hundreds crowded and fought to secure pieces of clothing, charred bits of wood, or portions of the corpse, as souvenirs.

Every decent instinct was temporarily submerged in the mad hysteria of the mob—crazed by the contagious brutality of a maniacal act of revenge.

The next day the community was sickened and shocked in the aftermath of its own bestiality.

Such lynchings are not the exception, but the rule.

They are not carried out because the law is failing, or because preservation of the home or the race are at stake—but because the lowest and most lewd and most unrestrained elements of a community, inflamed by savage talk and much liquor, give way to a suppressed lust for blood and violence.

• • • •

ON Wednesday Tennessee authorities demonstrated how a mob should be handled.

And the mob, in its wanton destruction of the courthouse and of militia equipment, demonstrated how false are all the arguments which have ever been made to defend or condone the crime of lynching.

PITTSBURGH, PA.
POST GAZETTE

DEC 24 1934

Dual System of State and Lynch Law Is Expensive

CHARGED with a horrible crime, a young colored man was to have been tried, last week, at Shelbyville, Tenn. A mob of several hundred persons attempted to take the prisoner from National Guardsmen protecting him. Four persons were fatally wounded in the battle. The prisoner was taken to Nashville. Baffled and infuriated, the mob burned the county courthouse.

In addition to the deaths, the state has to pay for maintenance of several hundred Guardsmen in the "field," $200,000 worth of courthouse went up in smoke, and the town is left in a condition of shamed excitement, with vigilantes organizing for suppression of further disorders. And the prisoner is just where he was, in the hands of the law, awaiting trial.

Indignant comment is fruitless. Mob spirit has to be dealt with where and as it appears. Lynching is a problem which may or may not be brought nearer to solution under proposed Federal legislation. The strange thing is that any state will spend money maintaining its police and court systems, and then stand for defiance of the courts and destruction of their buildings by a raging mob.

PONTIAC, MICH.
PRESS

DEC 21 1934

UNLEASHED PASSIONS

What happens when people give way to mob rule is demonstrated in the terrorizing of a town and burning of a $150,000 court house at Shelbyville, Tennessee. A Negro charged with assaulting a fourteen year old white girl was the object of the mob's fury. Under orders of Gov. HILL MCALISTER, the Negro was whisked away to prevent his falling into the hands of a lynching mob. And the angry citizenry turned on officers and guardsmen who were only doing their duty in seeking to uphold the majesty of the law.

Lynchings long have constituted a dark spot in American social life, especially in Southern States. Within the past year or two there has been a decided improvement. Courts of justice have been permitted to proceed by orderly process to judge and punish those who violate the law or the sanctity of human life. Yet of a sudden unleashed vengeance breaks forth to discount the idea that the full importance of law and order is understood.

Governor MCALISTER and police officers are to be congratulated for their efforts in frustrating another lynching. Members of the mob, outside the hoodlums who always take advantage of such occasions, will thank the officers when passions calm down and they have opportunity to reflect on their own folly. The taxes they will pay for the building of a new court house will help them remember in the future that it is better to let the law take an orderly course than to seek a personal vengeance in defiance of all civilized conduct.

CINCINNATI, O.
POST

DEC 21 1934

MOB VIOLENCE

IN the last half century there has been tremendous social advance in many lines But there seems to have been little progress made toward curbing the human passion that vents itself in the violence of mob action.

Just fifty years ago, in the Courthouse riots of 1884, the streets of Cincinnati ran red with human blood. A mob stormed the county jail seeking to lynch two murderers who had escaped death sentence after court trial. State militia fired upon the mob and many were killed and injured. A militia officer was slain. The mob found, when it broke into the jail, that the prisoners they sought had been taken elsewhere for safekeeping In their fury at being thwarted, they applied the torch and the Courthouse was destroyed with the loss of many valuable records.

That chapter of shameful history was repeated almost in exact detail at Shelbyville Tenn., Wednesday night. A mob stormed the courthouse where a murderer was on trial Militia fired on the mob and several were killed and wounded. The prisoner was removed to a place of safety. Then the thwarted mob burned the courthouse.

In the matter of punishing crime only by the civilized methods of orderly legal procedure, we as a nation have not progressed very far in fifty years.

ALBANY, N. Y.
NEWS

DEC 21 1934

Mob Insanity

THE outburst of mob insanity in Shelbyville, Tenn., resulting in several deaths and the burning of the Court House is an illustration of what this spirit can do. The several hundred made an unhappy Christmas for that community, destroyed their own property and disgraced their town. Fortunately this time the lynchers did not accomplish their purpose and the country has the satisfaction of noting a sheriff who did his duty and a governor who acted quickly to maintain order and uphold law.

It is regrettable, of course, that the National Guard had to kill and wound, but it is more regrettable that citizens of the United States should make this necessary. The sheriff and guardsmen saved the prisoner, a Negro, sought by the lynchers, by a clever ruse, but the mob was so angry that it attacked and had to be driven back.

It is strange that there could be several hundred Americans who could so far forget their citizenship and the principles of their government as to attempt to commit a crime to punish a crime. Lynching cannot be condoned and no state can afford not to prevent lynching when it is possible.

BUFFALO, N. Y.
TIMES

DEC 21 1934

"PROTECTING WOMANHOOD"

BALKED in its attempt to lynch a Negro accused of attacking a white girl, the mob at Shelbyville, Tenn., burned down the county court house, set fire to a Negro hotel and tried to dynamite the jail.

We commend the incident to the consideration of those respectable citizens who condone lynching on the ground that it approximates a rough sort of justice which partially compensates for the law's delay.

The Shelbyville mob was actuated by a blind, unreasoning fury that had not even a remote bearing upon the protection of the chastity of Southern womanhood. If it had destroyed the jail and its inmates the mob's wrath would have been visited upon the innocent, as well as the guilty; and in burning the court house it struck at no criminal but itself. The cost of a new court house will have to come, in part, out of the pockets of the members of the mob.

By averting the Shelbyville lynching Governor McAllister and the Tennessee National Guard have distinguished themselves and won the thanks of civilized Americans.

AUBURN, N. Y.
CITIZEN-ADVERTISER

DEC 21 1934

LAWLESSNESS CHECKED.

The attempted lynching at Shelbyville, Tennessee, was a miserable affair, but one guaranteed to show the American people the growing importance of such work as the recent crime conference in Washington has undertaken. The tragedy is a symbol, not only of traditional racial antagonism, but of a spirit of general lawlessness which has developed in this country to a dangerous degree. If that spirit is allowed to have its way, the time will come when our whole carefully built system of law and justice will come crashing down around our ears. The first timbers, one suspects, have already cracked.

It makes little difference as far as this disrespect for law and authority is concerned, whether it takes the form of kidnaping, robbery, racketeering or lynching. The undermining effect is the same in any case. It is to the credit of the governor of Tennessee that he took adequate measures to preserve the authority of the state against violent mob action. Too often those in responsible positions throughout the country have shown themselves indifferent to the fundamental dangers of individual lynchings, making little or no effort to protect their prisoners or to control mob violence. In this particular case resistance was sufficient and mob rule was given a lesson which should have a good effect on the rest of the country.

New Bedford, Mass.
MERCURY

DEC 21 1934

On Wednesday there was an attempt at lynching in Shelbyville, Tenn. The government did its duty in the matter of law enforcement. As a result, there was no lynching. Thereby the Shelbyville occurrence, even though it was marked by tragedy, stands out distinctively in contrast with the previous record of the United States in the matter of mob violence.

The outbreak and the failure of its objective—the killing of a Negro who was on trial on the charge of attacking a white girl—proved conclusively that lynchings can be successful only through spinelessness or connivance on the part of the officers whose duty it is to safeguard prisoners. The mob, which numbered between 300 and 500, was so vicious in its determination that it made several assaults upon a force of 111 National Guardsmen; and the prisoner was smuggled out of the jail, disguised in a National Guard uniform and gas mask, and taken to Nashville. The county court house was set on fire and destroyed by the rioters and four abandoned military trucks were also destroyed. But the bullets and bayonets quelled the frenzy of the mob after two of the rioters had been killed by bullets or bayonets, and a number of others injured, two fatally.

Threats to burn the county jail were made by the mob, and the hour was set for 1 o'clock yesterday morning; but the time passed without an attempt to carry out the threat; and as the crowd, although still in a menacing mood, was partly dispersed, apprehensions of another attack were allayed. The arrival of 600 National Guardsmen yesterday apparently brings the disturbances to an end.

ROCHESTER, N. Y.
DEMOCRAT & CHRONICLE

DEC 21 1934

Humiliating but True

When Ruth Bryan Owen was in Rochester she said a good deal about the unfortunate view of American life that people in other countries obtain from the type of American news published by their local newspapers, and from the type of American motion pictures selected by their local theaters.

It is quite possible that the view of American life thus obtained is warped and untrue, and yet occurrences are frequently reported in certain sections of the country which lend themselves to lurid treatment. Is it anything but a generally low stage of civilization that leads to such spectacles as the lynching mob at Shelbyville, Tennessee, which, thwarted in its purpose of lynching a Negro accused of a revolting crime, burned the court house and attacked the state troops sent out to keep order?

The slow effects of the civilizing influences that have been sent into the backward regions of Tennessee and other parts of the South do not yet seem to have instilled in the ordinary inhabitants of those regions a respect for law that trusts its processes to punish a revolting offender promptly and effectively.

The authorities of the state of Tennessee should receive national commendation for their efforts to subdue the mob and prevent its unlawful acts. So long as lynchings are so frequent as to be the subject of statistics, as they are now; so long as groups of supposedly respectable and responsible citizens act as they did at Shelbyville, some of the foreign views about America as a lawless nation will have justification. Lynching is a national as well as a local disgrace.

New York World Telegram

DEC 22 1934

No Yankee Could Have Beat Him.

"CITY KID" McAlister had the satisfaction, this week, of having prevented a lynching.

The boys around Shelbyville, Tenn., might be pretty sore at him on that same account, but probably they hadn't voted for him anyway. At any rate, many of them surely had voted against him.

And even though three men were killed in the rioting, the "City Kid's" soldiers took possession of Shelbyville, and there wasn't any lynching.

And no Yankee Governor could have done any better.

Hill McAlister is his name.

They don't credit him with being as colorful as "Bob" Taylor down in Tennessee, or as brilliant as Luke Lea. For years when Luke Lea was running the State, about in the same thoroughness as Huey Long is running Louisiana, although less flamboyantly, Luke beat him.

Hill McAlister ran for Governor once against Luke Lea's man, Austin Peay, and twice against Luke Lea's man, Henry L. Horton, and he was licked each time.

But he is in the Governor's Mansion at Nashville today, and Luke Lea is a tragic memory.

He got the name, "City Kid," in the Horton campaigns. Henry H. Horton was known as "Uncle Henry." He was the friend of the farmer, and everybody knew it.

Hill McAlister came from Nashville. By contrast, he was the "City Kid."

They made more jokes about him than they made about Ford automobiles. They told of his asking a farmer, while admiring his pigpen, "how many hams can you get out of a fine hog like that?" They told of his telling the farmer's wife in the cabin down in the river bottom, "thanks for the potlikker, but I'm a teetotaler."

They licked him on "City Kid" jokes, and he kept on going until he got himself elected Governor.

He got elected on an economy platform, the previous Governors having run up the State debt with roads and the like, and the first day in office he fired most of the Horton incumbents. Then he did run the State on not such a lavish scale.

His great extravagance was in following Governor Laffoon, of Kentucky, into the Colonel business. He scattered commissions around rather handsomely. Bill Terry, of the New York Giants, is one of his Colonels.

But he doesn't care for lynchings.

The boys had a necktie party for a Negro in Maury County a year ago, and the Governor put up a reward for the offenders. "It was a disgrace to the State, I am sorry to say," said the Governor.

He is a man 59 years old, considerably deaf, with a wife and two married daughters, born in Nashville, educated at Vanderbilt, a lawyer, several terms State Treasurer, a deserving Democrat politician, a middle of the road plugger, with a great deal of stubborn stability. His family is all right: he's had two Governors for ancestors.

Lynchings-1934
&
Discussions.

White Press, Northern.

4578

Rally for Unity of Black and White

Daily Worker

12-22-34

New York, N.Y.

REPORTS from Shelbyville, Tennessee, indicate a town crazed with lynch hysteria and violence against the Negro population.

The savagery of the [illegible] a terrible reminder that lynch terrorism and violence are rising rapidly against the Negro masses throughout the South. This terrorism is not something apart from the general increase in violence against the whole working class. It is an intensified part of this rising fascist reaction whose source is none other than the capitalist state with the Roosevelt administration at its head.

Three lynch leaders were actually killed and several others wounded by shots fired into the mob by National Guardsmen, and Lieutenant-Colonel John R. [illegible] the troops, hastens to assure the lynchers that "every shot that was fired by the guardsmen was fired in self-defense."

It would be a pitiful illusion to imagine that the sending of troops was an act in defense of the Negro prisoner or the Negro people. The mob was allowed to wreak its fury on the Negro section of the town, firing a Negro hotel and indiscriminately beating up men, women and children. The unrestrained fury of the mob in its attack on the guardsmen and the courthouse was more than the lynch-inciting press had bargained for.

The only reason that the troops were ordered to fire on the lynchers was that the bloodthirstiness and savagery of the mob had reached such unbridled fury that the whole prestige of the government as well as the interests of property had become involved. There is no doubt at all that the capitalist court would have carried through a swift and merciless legal lynching of the framed Negro. What the mob wanted was a speedier and more gruesome murder. And this is the only difference between the court and the lynch mob. It was the "dignity of the law" that was protected—the Negro quarters were left completely at the mercy of the mob.

Proof that the "protection" demanded against the mob was not a protection in the interests of the Negro population is given by the latest reports from Shelbyville, which tell of the proposed formation of "vigilante" committees of the "best citizens" to "restore the processes of the law." This is the capitalist law used against the entire working class and to rush innocent Negroes to a swift, legal murder.

It is the Roosevelt government, it is the whole state apparatus of the capitalists, with their schools and press, that spills lynch poison and incitement into the minds of the white toilers to cover up the slavery and oppression that pauperizes black and white. Does not the Roosevelt A. A. A. incite lynch terrorism against the Negro croppers in the South? Do not the N. R. A. codes fasten the chains of national oppression through differential wage scales?

The increasing miseries of the crisis are being used by the capitalists and landlords to incite the hungry against the hungry, the oppressed against the oppressed, the white against the black. It is only in the unity of black and white, of the working class and all oppressed groups that the chains of wage slavery and national oppression can be broken.

THE SHELBYVILLE LYNCHING.

Times

12-21-34

New York N.Y.

All the more deplorable and discouraging must appear the latest attempt to lynch a prisoner for coming so soon after President ROOSEVELT's appeal to the nation to rally every energy against the prevalence of crime. Bar associations, together with various committees and agencies formed to deal with the subject, have at the same time appealed to the American people to start a "revolt" against crime in the United States. What they seem to have had chiefly in mind is banditry, along with kidnapping and racketeering attended by murderous violence. They were thinking mainly of our bad reputation for tolerating the gunman and the thug. But behind all these criminal activities there lies the spirit of lawlessness in general. Even ordinarily respectable citizens seem at times to catch the madness of trying to take the law into their own hands. This appears to have been the roots of the mischief in the case of members of the mob in the Tennessee town. There is no need to dwell upon the repulsive details of the affair. Nor is there fit occasion to hold up these rioters as sinners above all that inhabit this land. The thing might have happened anywhere, in any State, South or North. It is only one more example of what has become a national shame and curse.

Perhaps the rioters were led on by the belief that it was perfectly safe for them to demand that the Sheriff turn over to them a man in jail whom they were resolved to execute. Too often it has happened in various parts of the country that a mob in such cases finds it easy to have its way. Only a feeble pretense is made of really protecting a criminal already in the hands of justice. Protests and appeals to the ringleaders to let the law have its course are made, but too often the mob feels that all this can be brushed aside as of no account. They think of themselves as representing popular sentiment, and scout the idea that the authorities will resolutely withstand them by the use of force. At Shelbyville this process was reversed. The prisoner was not delivered up, but was got out of town by a ruse, while the desperate attacks of the rioters were met by militiamen who, in self-defense, killed two of the members of the mob.

This should have a deterrent effect in other places where the mob spirit is apt to be roused. The conviction will spread that it is not a mere holiday affair to march upon a jail and demand that a certain prisoner, or prisoners, be turned over to the rioters to wreak their will. If force is to be met by force, the story will seem to be different. The authorities are under a sworn duty to protect men caught in the net of the law, and, if they are to do it at all, ought to use the utmost vigor that may be necessary. The Governor of Tennessee acted upon the assumption that he could not allow the peace and dignity of the State to be affronted by a mob outbreak, and at once ordered sufficient troops to the scene to assure law and order and to disperse the rioters. Many of the latter are reported to have fled from the scene when they found that violence was not to be wholly on their side.

So there may come something good out of this evil thing. Men of anti-social instincts and unbridled passions may be partly restrained. The officials set for the enforcement of the law may acquire a new determination to defy and resist mob demands. But we shall not put an end to this national reproach until, by education, by political action, by using means to secure swifter and more equal justice, we have done much more than we have to extirpate and punish with due severity all forms of lawlessness.

I. L. D. FIGHTS LYNCH TERROR IN TENNESSEE

Daily Worker

Attempt To Stab Negro Frustrated by Nurse

In Hospital

12-22-34

New York, N.Y.

A flood of telegrams to Governor Hill McAllister of Tennessee, at Nashville, Tenn., demanding the protection of the Negro inhabitants of Shelbyville, threatened by lynch-incited mobs and a newly-formed "vigilante" organization, was called for yesterday by Anna Damon, acting national secretary of the International Labor Defense today.

The telegrams should also demand the unconditional and safe release of M. K. Harris, Negro worker whom the mob attempted to lynch, the removal of Judge T. L. Coleman, who by his refusal to grant a change of venue even while drunken mobs were howling around the court-house where Harris was being "tried," lent his ablest assistance to the incitement of the mob; and apprehension and punishment of the organizers of the mob, three of whose members were killed by National Guardsmen defending themselves against its attack while protecting Harris.

Another Negro Attacked

SHELBYVILLE, Tenn., Dec. 21.—Lynch violence against the Negro population here, including an attempt to stab a Negro orderly at the local hospital, continued throughout last night in a gruesome sequel to Wednesday's mob attack on the courthouse during the trial of E. K. Harris, a Negro worker.

The Negro orderly had attempted to assist in the removal of the body of Gilford Freeman, one of the lynch leaders shot by National Guardsmen defending the courthouse, when a white man attacked him with a knife. A white nurse protected the Negro by throwing herself between him and his assailant.

Freeman, a mechanic, had died yesterday, increasing the total of dead to four. The other known dead are Raleigh Edwards, an interior decorator, and Pat Lawes, a farmer. Local authorities have thrown a thick shroud of mystery around the identity of the fourth dead lynch leader, leading to the belief that he is either a city official or a prominent local business man. His body is reported to have mysteriously "disappeared" after he had been declared dead by Dr. Joseph L. Morton, county health officer.

Jane Newton to Speak

CHICAGO, Dec. 21.—Jane Newton, released Wednesday from the Psychopathic Hospital where she had been sent by Judge Green of the Municipal Court for an examination into her sanity because she married a Negro, will be one of the main speakers at the mass meeting here Friday, Dec. 28, in defense of the Chicago Workers' School. The meeting will be held at the Grill Room, Capitol Building, 159 N. State Street, at 7:30 p. m.

Her husband, Herbert Newton, Negro Communist leader, is still facing trial in connection with the mass fight of Negro and white workers against his eviction from 615 Oakwood Boulevard, ordered by Judge Green on the landlord's complaint that Newton is a Negro.

MACOMB, ILL.
JOURNAL

DEC 22 1934

SOUTHERN MOB LOSES.

Lynchings have been greatly reduced in the south in the last ten years or so, and they will be further reduced if other mobs are greeted as officers at Shelbyville, Tenn., greeted the mob that attempted to hang a negro there.

For many years the life of a colored person was very cheap in the south. The public there evidently thought little of a hanging. Otherwise public sentiment would have prevented them. For a number of years, however, opposition to mob-justice has materially reduced this form of outlawry and such opposition as was shown it at Shelbyville will eventually wipe it out.

As far as the criminals themselves are concerned, many of them deserve nothing less than punishment as it is meted out by a mob. The more important objection is the fact that mob violence is a defiance of established law. It deprives the victim of a fair trial which is guaranteed to him by the laws of this country. Whenever lynch law gets to be prevalent mobs become exprone to act hastily and suspects against whom evidence is flimsy are hanged as well as those against whom there is an open and shut case.

The governor of California, who a year or two ago approved the lynching of two kidnappers and murderers and explained that such things would not happen if the courts would deal effectively with criminals of this sort was, in a measure, right. He was right in the explanation no matter how wrong he may have been in approving lawlessness.

But the south has no such defense. The courts there show no hesitancy in exacting the death penalty in the numerous attack cases with which the south contends, so lynchers there do not have even this defense for their actions.

Commendable courage was shown by the officers at Shelbyville in defending the negro. The killing of two mobsters, while regretable, will go a long ways in cooling the fervor of other mobs.

BALTIMORE, MD.
EVENING SUN

DEC 31 1934

Explanation Of Shelbyville, By One Who Has Theories

To the Editor of The Evening Sun—*Sir:*

Recently, "Traveler" expressed surprise because the Shelbyville he knew had the reputation of being a "law-abiding and religious town."

"Traveler" should bear in mind that it is not the ordinary law-breaking temperament that precipitates lynching. Second, that devout church attendance does not necessarily indicate good moral character. True, it does indicate religion. But religion is simply a specialized technique by which its followers show their belief in the real moral-giving characteristic called "faith."

Therefore, in a certain type of ignorant and unintelligent individual, it would be not unusual to find the "specialized technique" carried out to the extreme, even though there was no feeling whatsoever of that all-important "faith." Though he spends a great deal of his time in church and may be familiar with the Bible, his lack of thinking capacity allows him to govern his life solely by the laws of man.

We can see, then, that he would be the very last to disobey parking ordinances; but his evidenced blind passion and deficient reasoning powers show us that he would be the very first to commit murder for vengeance.

MORTON SCHWARTZMAN.

Baltimore, Dec. 28.

PATERSON, N. J.
NEWS

DEC 28 1934

LYNCHING NEVER CAN AND NEVER SHOULD BE CONDONED

The recent outburst of mob insanity in Shelbyville, Tenn., resulting in several deaths and the burning of the Court House is an illustration of what this spirit can do. The several hundred made an unhappy Christmas for that community, destroyed their own property and disgraced their town. Fortunately this time the lynchers did not accomplish their purpose and the country has the satisfaction of noting a sheriff who did his duty and a governor who acted quickly to maintain order and uphold law.

It is regrettable, of course, that the National Guard had to kill and wound, but it is more regrettable that citizens of the United States should make this necessary. The sheriff and guardsmen saved the prisoner, a Negro, sought by the lynchers, by a clever ruse, but mob was so angry that it attacked and had to be driven back.

It is strange that there could be several hundred Americans who could so far forget their citizenship and the principles of their government as to attempt to commit a crime to punish a crime. Lynching cannot be condoned and no state can afford not to prevent lynching when it is possible.

Lynchings-1934
6
Discussions.

White Press, Northern.

4579

Nation
2-7-34
New York, N.Y.
Vol. 138, No. 3579

THAT LAWLESSNESS in high places breeds it in lo is evident in California, which is now paying dearly for its long-continued imprisonment of Mooney and Billings on fabricated testimony and the recent declaration of its Governor in support of lynching. In the past year California has been quite as ruthless and brutal in denying elementary legal rights to striking workers as Alabama has been in refusing justice to Negroes. Employers and local-government officials have conspired to intimidate, attack, and throw into jail the leaders of various strikes among agricultural laborers, and the fact that the latter have been largely Mexicans, Japanese, and Filipinos has made it easy to practice such violence without serious rebuke from the majority of the citizens of the State. Perhaps the most flagrant instance has been the complete suppression of civil rights in the strike lately called by the Cannery and Agricultural Workers' Industrial Union among the lettuce pickers in the Imperial Valley. Not only has picketing been forcibly prevented but strikers have been clubbed, their property destroyed, their leaders jailed, and even their lawyers kidnapped. A. L. Wirin, attorney for the American Civil Liberties Union, was taken lately from a hotel in Brawley and beaten by a gang of vigilantes and county officials. Mr. Wirin had gone to Brawley to speak at a meeting planned to test the ban against such gatherings. The chief of police had prohibited the meeting but an injunction had been obtained from a federal court forbidding interference with it. Attorney-General Cummings has been asked to direct the federal District Attorney at Los Angeles to investigate the episode, and he cannot be too insistent in pursuing the leaders of this rebellion against national authority among the planters of the Imperial Valley and their sycophants in public office.

ST. PAUL, MINN.
PIONEER PRESS
JAN 7 1934

LYNCH LAW IN 1933.

The resurgence of lynchings in 1933, after its comparative quiescence during the two previous years, calls attention once more to the persistence of lynch law in the United States.

In 1932 the number of victims of mob violence dropped to the lowest point on record, only eight persons being killed, and the year before there were thirteen. When 1933 began there were hopes that this national evil was at last on the wane. But such hopes were dashed when the total of victims soared to 24, three times the record low of 1932. But the 1933 increase may be interpreted simply as a flare-back, indicating the extreme difficulty of controlling lynching and the continued necessity of persisting in the effort to remove its underlying causes.

Despite the bad showing of 1933, there has been, in the long view, a marked decline in lynching in the last 45 years. It will be noticed that the decreased resort to lynch law coincides with the passing of the frontier in American history around the close of the last century. When the old West was being opened to settlement, lynching was a common form of punishment for horse thieves, cattle rustlers, and other offenders against law and order in regions where organized institutions of justice and government were either feeble or did not exist.

* * *

The establishment of a more stable civilization did not, however, completely eradicate the evil from our midst. Statistics show that from 1889 through 1932 a total of 3,745 persons, 2,954 Negroes and 791 whites, were lynched in the United States. While there has been no regular year by year reduction, the trend over this period has been sharply downward, the largest number being 255 in 1892 and the lowest eight in 1932.

Lynching of whites ceased to be a serious problem long ago. In the last quarter century the number has been less than ten in all but two of the years, and there were no white victims at all in 1924, 1925 and 1927.

The predominant number of Negro victims leads naturally to consideration of the geographical incidence of the lynching evil. The exhaustive investigation made by the Southern Commission on the Study of Lynching in 1931 supports the general assumption that most of the lynchings occur in the Southern states. After pointing out that about 90 per cent of the lynchings of the present century were in the fourteen Southern states, the commission concluded it was obvious that the evil was becoming more and more a Southern and racial phenomenon.

* * *

The findings of the commission correct the impression, which seems to be general, that lynchings are most frequent where Negro population is greatest. For instance, the so-called Black Belt, where Negroes comprise more than half the population, had the smallest proportion of lynchings, while the greatest proportion was in localities with less than one-fourth Negro inhabitants. The commission explains this by pointing out that in the Black Belt the race relations are still on the plantation system basis and the large Negro majority makes fewer occasions for racial conflict. In regions of one-fourth Negro population the sense of economic competition is strong and fosters a racial antagonism which breeds the spirit of lynch law.

The commission in its study of the causes which result in this resort to mob violence found that the murder charge accounted for considerably more than a third of the charges. Contrary to public opinion, the accusation of sex crime accounts for only a small proportion, one-sixth, of all lynchings in a 40-year period. This is of particular interest in view of the fact that lynching is often excused on the ground of protecting white women. It should be noted in this connection that the Association of Southern Women for the Prevention of Lynching in the 1930 meeting adopted the resolution that "we are profoundly convinced that lynching is not a defense of womanhood or of anything else, but rather a menace to private and public safety, and a deadly blow to our most sacred institutions."

The Commission on Interracial Co-operation, of which the Southern Commission on the Study of Lynching is a part, is sponsoring the principal efforts in this country to eradicate lynching. In its studies it has come to the conclusion that lack of education and low economic and social status of a region seem to be directly related both to mob violence and to crimes which provoke it. In most Southern states provision for the care of Negro dependents, juvenile delinquents, feeble-minded, and mentally deranged is generally inadequate. Correction of such conditions is one of the aims of anti-lynching organizations.

Lit. Digest

The Lynching Evil—Readers' Replies

Acknowledgment is made here of letters to THE LITERARY DIGEST on the article, "The Lynching Evil and Church Responsibility," in the issue of December 23, 1933.

A. Landon Prater, of Dallas, Texas, denies Mr. Mackreth's statement that "a large part of the responsibility for mob murder rests upon the churches." In 99 44/100 per cent. of lynchings, Mr. Prater writes, "it is the culmination of an attack by a black upon a white woman. Public mass meetings, the instilling of reverence by the preacher, the threat of the mob will not deter lynchings as long as the black tries to appease his bestial desires by rape."

The article "is of grave and arresting interest," writes Mrs. Samuel Gaillard Stoney, Charleston, S. C., "but the omission of the five New England States from the list of those guilty of lynching requires further explanation. When it is considered with what unique and sacred event the list opens, it would appear that even the New England States might be guilty under such construction of the word. In which State, or in how many, were witches burned?"

Katherine Gamble (address not given) writes that the article "evidences a very laudable desire to deal in a fair-minded way with the crime of lynching. The article shows much insight into the point at issue when it convincingly shows the reader that a crime, almost entirely conceived by many to be confined to the South, so far from being localized south of the Mason and Dixon line is really national and international in its expression." But this writer challenges the statement that more Negroes have been done to death in the South than elsewhere. "In instances of Negro lynching in the South only the guilty party is executed, while in the race riots mentioned in the article innocent and defenseless Negroes were the victims in large numbers." The responsibility for lynchings, says this writer, belongs not to the churches, but to the bar associations and the Legislatures.

"If this recent spineless effort at law enforcement is a sample of what we can expect in an emergency," writes Duncan D. Earl, of San Jose, California, speaking of the San Jose affair, "may God have mercy on the souls of any of us who are dumb enough to try to take away the right of the average citizen to bear arms for the protection of his life and home."

"I congratulate you on the article," writes Philip S. Cummings, of Oxnard, California. He thinks "our courts and court procedure are really the primary cause of lynching."

"After reading the article, I am of the opinion that this country as a whole is mob-minded," writes F. J. King of Brooklyn, New York.

"The article by Mr. Mackreth on 'The Lynching Evil and Church Responsibility,' is most decidedly the best this writer has had the good fortune to read in a long time," writes Owen Saunders, of Gainesville, Texas. However, Mr. Saunders disagrees with the statement that lynching is "the ripe harvest of poverty and ignorance," and says "most lynchings here in the South occurred because some monster had the temerity to lay violent hands on a good woman."

Mr. W. M. Anderson, of Montgomery, Alabama, maintains that Christ was not lynched but put to death "after trial and seemingly by consent of the Roman Government. He was not lynched."

"Ably presented, but tainted with sentiment," writes I. R. Gould, of Palmetto, Florida, of the article.

"You evidently are from the South. Trying to shift the responsibility on the Church is not exactly fair," writes Ernest N. Barringer, of New York City.

NEWS
Towson, Md.
JAN 2 1934

LYNCHING.

The confession of a Baltimore county girl that she had deliberately concocted the story of how she had been kidnapped by two colored men shows how cautiously the authorities should accept as true the statements of an individual in such a case.

On the Eastern Shore, possibly, the irate citizenry, gathered to redress the wronge committed against white womanhood, would have lynched the two negroes identified by the girl in question as being the men who had attacked her. The incident explains why every one charged with a crime is entitled to a fair and impartial trial and how lynching, in nine cases out of ten, is a miscarriage of justice. A mob, excited by some wild story told for the purpose of protecting its perpetrator, goes out and brutally lynches an innocent suspect.

BALTIMORE, MD.
MORNING SUN
JAN 9 1934

GUARD AGAINST LYNCHING

The course of the Somerset county authorities in dealing with the Brumbley murde[illegible] has seemed somewhat vague and mysterious, but it evidently is dictated in part by concern to guard against another lynching. For this all should be grateful. It indicates that despite the blatant defense of lynching and the furious denunciation of those who condemn lynching, good sense and common decency are at work on the lower Eastern Shore.

Evidently, higher officials and responsible elements of the citizenship are not letting the sort of speeches that have been fashionable down there govern their thinking in the present situation. And if they do some fancy walking on tight ropes, in trying to restore the legal process without openly condemning their own recent words or actions, no one will be overly critical. The important thing is to dethrone the mob and to re-establish the authority of the courts. And it seems to *The Sun* that in that effort the higher officials and the responsible cititzens might accelerate their progress if they reviewed the record and revealed to their people the plain fact that lynching and burning Negroes does not stop crime.

We shall not go so far as to say that the mob murders at Salisbury and Princess Anne, and the orgiastic furies that were unloosed on those occasions, have actually led to further individual crimes through the fanning of brutish impulses, although that theory would find support among many students of lynching and mob rule. But it does seem to us that the feeblest mind on the lower Shore ought to be able to see that the burning of human bodies and the severing of ears and toes do not prevent crime, as the advocates of burning and mutilation would have us believe.

Grand Junction, Colo.
COLO. SENTINEL
JAN 29 1934

OUR LYNCHING RECORD

One man was condemned to death in 1933 for stealing a cow; another for a quarrel with a passer-by on the street; a third because he planned a lawsuit against the son of an official of the law; four others for reasons too vague to determine. These executions were not ordered or carried out by any court; they were the work of irresponsible mobs many of the members of which were drunk. The story is told in a survey of lynchings in 1933.

In many ways, 1933 was a year remarkable for a return to sanity, discipline and order, but its 28 lynchings—compared to 10 in 1932 and 14 in 1931—add nothing creditable to the record. As usual, most of the victims were Negroes. Several were accused of murdering or attacking white women, but one was merely accused of accosting a white woman and another of a vague insult, never verified. One Negro was lynched for a supposed attack on a white woman which, it was later proved, never took place.

As usual, there were plenty of sordid episodes in the South, but California takes first place in the discreditable record. In no other state, at least, did an official sworn to uphold the law match the spectacle of Governor James Rolph, Jr., in praising as "patriots" and "honest citizens" the hoodums who committed the San Jose atrocity.—Pittsburgh Press.

BUFFALO, N. Y.
COURIER EXPRESS
FEB 10 1934

CONSIDER THE JURY

Two weeks ago Maryland's Princess Anne lynching case collapsed. Missouri's case at St. Joseph has similarly collapsed. Attorney General McKittrick says it would be useless to proceed with the trials of the other defendants in the face of acquittal, by a jury of "good representative citizens of Buchanan County," of Walter Garton, against whom the prosecution had built up its "strongest" case.

The outcome of these two cases is far from encouraging for those who would like to see mob law made inferior to statute law for once and all. Some may even feel that such acquittals are a vindication of Governor Rolph's support of the lynchers at San Jose last fall. The facts, however, do not warrant a conclusion like that. If, as Missouri's attorney general says, the jury that acquitted Garton was made up of "good representative citizens," then it must follow that their verdict reflects no belief on their part that lynching deserves either to be cheered or condoned, but reflects rather their unwillingness to find the defendant guilty as charged. Garton was charged with murder in the first degree. That may be no exaggeration of the gravity of the crime of lynching. It happens, however, that lynchers may not consider their act a crime but rather a service. A grievously mistaken view, of course. Nevertheless, such a view doubtless plays a large part in a jury's deliberation.

If the St. Joseph jury could not reconcile the charge of first degree murder with the purpose of the mob that lynched Lloyd Warner, a young Negro, such inability may be considered less than surprising. It may indicate, moreover, that the practical thing to do, if lynching is to be eradicated, is so to change the law respecting the offense of lynching that its severity will not act as a deterrent of juries. Legislation is now before the Legislature at Albany to revise the perjury law so that juries may consider the penalty for perjury reasonable and apply it accordingly. Convictions under our present perjury law have become virtually impossible. And yet perjury, both judges and prosecuting attorneys testify, probably never before was so common. By considering lynching manslaughter and by fixing the penalty within limits which a jury of "good representative citizens" would consider reasonable, the co-operation of juries in destroying mob law might be secured.

Lynchings - 1934
&
Discussions.

White Press, Northern.

4580

FARGO, N. D.
EVE. FORUM
FEB 20 1934

The South and Lynching

Ordinarily, the prevalency of lynching in the South is attributed to the fact that Southerners must take this means for the protection of women. Of late years there has been developed the Association of Southern Women for the Prevention of Lynching, and this group is particularly active in trying to bring about means for stamping out the lynching evil. In a statistical report on the subject, just issued, it is said that from 1889 to 1930 a total of 3,724 persons were lynched in this country. Of this group, 745 were white and 2,979 were Negroes. It is rather significant to note that less than one-sixth are said to have been caused on any basis of protection to white women.

The Southern women who are active in the work of trying to do away with lynching are taking the viewpoint that the sounder method is to let the law, juries and judges be their protectors. To know that the responsibility is going to be left solely to them, certainly would add to the vigilance of law officers and of the courts.

ASTORIAN
ASTORIA, ORE.
FEB 21 1934

The difficulty of punishing those who take part in lynchings has been clearly shown in two cases lately. An attempt by the grand jury to do something in the San Jose, Cal., lynchings resulted in arrest of one boy, who later was released. Eight persons were arrested after a Missouri lynching and one finally got a short jail term because the revolver the mob took away from the sheriff was found in his possession. As long as members of lynching mobs can kill and destroy with assurance that they will escape punishment, there will always be lynchings. An educated, aroused public opinion that will make certain lynchers suffer punishment is necessary to wipe out this evil, and it probably will take years to create such a public opinion.

KOKOMO, IND.
TRIBUNE
FEB 21 1934

LONG LOOK AT LYNCHING.

The 28 lynchings which occurred in the United States in 1933 were confined to eleven states. Since the number had been dropping steadily for some years, it was discouraging to have the total rise so high again. However, a glance at statistics over the years since 1892 is reassuring.

In 1892 there were 255 lynchings in this country. They dropped to 131 in 1896, then jumped again to 166 the following year. Then the decline was resumed, reaching a new low of 107, followed by an increase to 135. By 1907 the total had come down to 63. That was followed by a bad year, with 100 lynchings. The total has never reached 100 since 1908. In 1926 there were 30, in 1930 there wer 25, but in 1929 there were only 10.

Even with the occasional set-backs, it seems clear that lynching is slowly disappearing. After scanning the record it no longer seems too optimistic to anticipate a year when there will be no mob murders in the whole length and breadth of the land.

SARANAC LAKE, N. Y.
ADIRONDACK ENTERPRISE
FEB 23 1934

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CHARLES CITY, IA.
PRESS
FEB 24 1934

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KALISPELL, MONT.
INTER-LAKE
MAR 7 1934

THE PROPER REMEDY

The Governor of California was severely criticized som
months ago when he voiced his approval of the ~~lynching~~ of
pair of kidnapers. On the other hand a good many felt tha
lynching was justified where the state failed to mete out swif
and certain justice.

Evidently there has been one good result as the outcom
of the incident, for the State of California has made the crim
of kidnaping punishable by death, and a superior court judg
in Los Angeles has pronounced the first sentence under the ne
law. In doing so he held that "a person who drags another onl
one foot distance with the intention of forcibly detaining th
victim, may be held guilty of kidnaping."

If all states would pass similar laws, and enforce them a
strictly in the interest of the public, there would probably be
decided falling off in this particular class of crime.

California got some unfavorable publicity, but it is now a
plying the proper remedy, to prevent a repetition of the unfo
unate affair.

HERALD

[illegible]

Anti-Lynch Bill Opposed As Promoter of Violence

Sumners Says South Regards Problem as Its Own

WASHINGTON, March 16 (AP).—The Costigan-LaFollette anti-lynch bill was characterized by Hatton W. Sumners, chairman of the House Judiciary Committee, today as a measure which would retard rather than promote the suppression of mob violence.

Mr. Sumners, Texas Democrat, attacked the bill in a hearing by the Senate Judiciary subcommittee after William H. Thompson, a mild-mannered druggist of Princess Anne, Md., had appeared before the group and denied he was a lyncher. Thompson was named at a previous hearing by William Preston Lane jr., Maryland Attorney General, as one of eight men who, Lane said, had been identified as part of the mob which took George Armwood, Negro, from jail in Princess Anne last October and lynched him.

"I am innocent of any charge pertaining to the lynching of George Armwood," Thompson said. "I was not in town that night—I can prove with witnesses that I was in Salisbury at a moving picture."

Sumners said the proposed Federal law, which provides penalties up to five years' imprisonment and $10,000 for local officials convicted of negligence in apprehending and prosecuting lynchers, would "operate directly against the interest of those it seeks to protect."

"There has been a tremendous development of sentiment in the South among people against lynching," he said. "They feel it's their job to stop this thing, which is a disgrace to their section.

"With the Federal government stepping in, there will be a tendency to shirk the responsibility and let Uncle Sam do it. And a United States Marshal going into a community to arrest officials would, in my opinion, stir a resentment which would be reflected in the jury box, when these people were tried."

KANSAS CITY, M

TIMES

APR 26 1934

Murderers in a Mob.

The danger of the mob lies in the letting down of individual responsibility. It wasn't a desire to administer justice or prevent a recurrence of Warner's crime which sent that mob against the jail. It was hate, the same passion that engenders any other murder. When you find the real leaders of that mob, you will find men of not much higher moral standards than the man they murdered.

Those words were part of Judge J. V. Gaddy's charge to the Buchanan County grand jury that investigated the lynching of Lloyd Warner, a Negro, who was taken from the county jail in St. Joseph, Mo., and murdered by a mob on the night of November 28, last year. They attracted wide attention at the time. Now their truth has just been strikingly illustrated in another part of the country.

Early this week D. B. Napier, also known as Frank Lockhart, was convicted by a jury in Shreveport, La., and sentenced to death on a charge of having criminally attacked and murdered a young woman. Nearly twenty years ago, Napier has confessed, he took part in the lynching of Leo Frank at Marietta, Ga. Frank also had been convicted of murdering a young woman. Napier, according to his own story, was a member of the mob that battered its way into the prison where Frank was being held, and then drove the motor car in which he was taken to the scene of the lynching.

To add to the coincidence, a mob also tried to seize Napier in jail, with the intention of lynching him, but was foiled. The real leaders of any mob, as Judge Gaddy remarked, are not much better than their victim. It would be hard to find a clearer illustration than this echo of the famous Leo Frank case affords. And it might be noted that, although Napier has admitted his crime, Leo Frank constantly maintained his own innocence, and when his case was appealed to the United States supreme court, two of its most distinguished justices, Charles Evans Hughes (now chief justice) and Oliver Wendell Holmes, held that he had not had a fair trial.

HORNELL, N. Y.

TRIBUNE TIMES

JUN 26 1934

THE SOUTH'S SHAME

Although there have been no sensational lynchings of late, the frequency of mob rule in the south has not diminished appreciably. Press services are still reporting cases of negroes cruelly murdered after being condemned without trial. The reports, though brief, are nonetheless effective—they constitute a damning indictment against the south's tolerance of an old and ugly evil.

In our advanced civilization, the idea of white Americans acting as savages seems almost incredible. Something within them drives them to a fury so great that they are able to debase themselves in a way that offends the nostrils of heaven. They probably have their own excuses, but often the excuses are even more miserable than the facts. What, for example, can justify the two lynchings reported since last Friday?

The first one occurred in Texas where a crowd of 150 men and women spent its blood-lust on a negro who was forcibly taken from officers, hanged, shot 17 times and dragged behind an automobile for several hours before his body was dumped near a factory. What did the negro do to deserve this? He was arrested with a white woman: his crime was that he associated with her.

The second lynching took place in Tennessee. A negro was stripped of his clothing, shot four times and beaten with an axe. After he was found dead in an oat field, eight white farmers were charged with killing him. What was his offense? He slapped a white man during an argument at a nergo dance.

Living north in a comparatively Christian territory, we are not familiar with the white man's code in Texas and Tennessee. Possibly civilization has a different meaning down there and violent death may be a jus punishment for negroes who slap faces or for blackamoors who catch th fancy of white ladies. But we doub that any southerner can argue a goo case in favor of this. We doubt tha any man can condone it. This thing as long as it goes unpunished, as lon as its repulsive presence continues to b felt, will be the south's shame—crime without extenuating circumstances.

WORCESTER, MASS.

TELEGRAM

JUN 23 1934

As We Preach to The Poor Heathen

Every time a Southern lynching is condemned by the North, Southern newspapers accuse us of "inability to understand Southern conditions."

But, with no desire to pass snap judgment on those who live, admittedly, under conditions different from our own, below Mason and Dixon's line, and sympathizing with the Southern Americans in many of their difficulties, we are still unable to feel anything except overpowering wrath and indignation at those men and women — yes, there were women in the mob—of Kirbyville, Texas, who, on Thursday, lynched a black man, the lynching being after the usual brutal manner. The "usual crime" charge with which Southrons back up their mobbings and burnings of Negroes was not brought in this case. The unfortunate black was charged with "associating with a white woman." She was a vagrant of loose morals, apparently on a social and intellectual level with the Negro who was murdered. But he was lynched as quickly as though he had been guilty of "the usual" crime.

Nothing new can be said in condemnation of this sort of thing. And the sad fact is that vivid accounts of the "latest American atrocity" will be broadcast in Europe as additional evidence of the savagery of those strange Americans whose murder, kidnap, holdup, jail delivery and thuggery record is the worst in the world, but who, nevertheless, send out more missionaries to "the heathen" than any other people.

ST. LOUIS, MO.

TIMES

JUL 13 1934

BUT THE MOB WAS DEAF.

The latest lynching took place at Bastrup, La., Monday. A Negro accused—not tried or convicted—of an attempted attack on a white girl was dragged from jail by a mob and hanged to a tree on the court house lawn. There were the usual details, except that this Negro is reported to have "cried and begged the mob to let him live." The mob, of course, did not listen. There also was the added insult to justice in the place where the hanging took place.

Guilty or innocent, the victim of mistaken identity, of trumped-up charges or revenge, it made no difference to this crowd thirsting for human blood. The Negro might have been given a fair trial, convicted and hanged legally within a week, but the mob would not wait. We have had the same thing in Missouri and there is no use turning up our noses and saying this affair occurred in the far South. Mobs are the same everywhere when they take the trail.

Lynchings go on because lynchers never are punished. Back of the mob, the blood of those slain in defiance of law and order is on the heads of the officials and jurors who let the lynchers go free.

Lynchings- 1934
Discussions.

"White Press, Northern.

4581

EAST ST. LOUIS, ILL.
JOURNAL

FEB 27 1934

Our Liberties

—New York World-Telegram.

America is losing too many civil liberties—and not knowing it.

"At no time," says the annual report of the American Civil Liberties union, "has there been such widespread violation of the workers' rights by injunctions, troops, private police, deputy sheriffs, labor spies and vigilantes."

More than 15 strikers have been killed, 200 injured and hundreds arrested since last July. Some 40 injunctions have been issued against labor leaders. The National Labor board has "lacked the will or the power to overcome the defiance of employers." Only where labor has been well organized have its legal rights been respected.

Last year 24 Negroes and four whites were killed by mobs. California, whose governor keeps Mooney and Billings in jail and "gloated" over a double lynching, heads the Union's blacklist. Alabama, Maryland's Eastern Shore, the mine and factory regions of Pennsylvania and Illinois are described as freedom's burial grounds.

The Union agrees that the Roosevelt leadership has been a liberalizing leaven. Its immigration and Indian bureaus, its state department and some other agencies display a new spirit. But where property interests are directly affected its influence has been least effective. One wonders what would have happened had a reactionary government been in charge of reconstruction.

TOLEDO, O.
NEWS-BEE

FEB 17 1934

[illegible] Liberties

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NEW YORK
~~[illegible]~~ WORLD
Telegram

FEB 19 1934

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MADERA, CAL.
TRIBUNE

MAY 10 1934

WHY CRIME CONTROL FAILS

Veturing to give no reason as to the underlying cause, leaders and editors of the state are pointing out that the kidnaping wave is growing; that the laws of congress and of the legislature and the lynch law have failed to halt the abduction racket. They are certain only that the officers, federal, state and municipal, are baffled and that the racket is growing because of the readiness of relatives to see that the demands of the kidnapers are met.

The racket will increase so long as there is an uncertainty of punishment—whether it be legal or vigilante la When it becomes almost a certainty that death will be th penalty for participation in the abduction racket, ther will be a hesitancy on the part of the criminal to take pa in kidnapings.

An example of the failure of the certainty of punish ment is given in the announcement that Clara Phillips, th tiger woman who, after committing a fiendish slayin some 12 years ago, is to be paroled next year. Followin her conviction, she staged a daring escape from the Lo Angeles jail and fled to Central America, but was late returned to serve her sentence. During the early part o her prison term, she became a problem for the priso authorities because of her conduct. Then, with a parol in view, she became a model prisoner and is now to be lib erated as an example that, regardless of what the crim there is always an opportunity to escape full punishment

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Aristocracy on the Eastern Shore

New Republic

SIR: It is necessary to protest against the opinion expressed by Gerald W. Johnson in his article "Maryland: Storm Warning" [The New Republic, December 20] that Eastern Shoremen in their recent battle with state troops had deeper motives than the protection of their brother lynchers. The Governor of Maryland is an "aristocrat" and has surrounded himself with "gentlemanly fellows" according to Johnson, and the Eastern Shoremen have "lost confidence in government by gentlemen." Whether one regards the reigning powers in Maryland today as gentleman depends upon one's conception of the term; it is sufficient here to record that Mr. Johnson's idea has not the dignity of universal acceptance. Be that as it may, the slightest familiarity with the situation in Maryland reveals the absurdity of Mr. Johnson's opinion that there was in the rioting the dim echo of revolution.

Continued from back of card →

when Jimmie Walker, mayor of New York, visited California for the express purpose of pleading the cause of Tom Mooney, now serving a life sentence for complicity in the famous Preparedness Day bomb-throwing that cost ten lives in San Francisco in 1916.

The Two Popular Jimmie

The two Jimmies were ver[illegible] alike, popular, generous and unprincipled. Their difference as regards Tom Mooney was that it was the determination of powerful Californian inte[illegible] to [illegible] Mooney in San Que[illegible], while New York had no interest in the case and would, on the whole, have lik[illegible] Mooney set at liberty. If there had been in Sing Sing a New York labor agitator like Mooney under sentence of death we have no doubt that the governor o California, had any group of his supporters suggested it to him, would have gone to New York and pleaded with Jimmy Walker for his release. The reply the New York Jimmy would have given the San Francisco Jimmy would have been precisely th reply the San Francisco Jimmy gave the New York Jimmy. Governor Rolph considered the question fo some time and then announced that on the advice of his attorneys, h would take no action.

Twenty Years Mayor.

Further to illustrate his kindl character we may say that he was opposed to capital punishment, an commuted many death sentences t life imprisonment. He was also opposed to prohibition, and probabl would have been even if three peopl out of four in California were no also opposed to it. No better indication of his popularity need be give than the fact that he was for 20 consecutive years mayor of San Francisco. It was only because of hi popularity that he missed bein elected governor in 1918. Though h was a Republican, he was on th Democratic ticket for the governorship, but because of some inside politics the Republicans failed to nominate him. Then, because of peculiar state law which says that i a candidate is after two party nominations he cannot run if he loses th nomination of the party with whic he is registered, he was kept ou of the race. Had he lived and ha his health been good he probabl would have been a candidate for th United States Senate.

There has been no issue in all the Shore trouble but racial hatred. It is the class to which the Governor belongs that has been most outspoken on the virture of lynching as a means of keeping the Negro in his place. The letters of protest to The Baltimore Sun for its gallant stand frequently begin with a statement of the writer's pedigree, with the evident intention of confirming the historic fact that pedigree and predaciousness are unalterably allied. And in every instance the list of ancestors reads like the Governor's own—early settlers, colonial Governors and slave holders. The most vitriolic reply to Mencken's disclosure of Eastern Shore decadence two years ago was signed by a Tilghman. Although the lynching mobs include all classes of people, the ideology of the mobs is that of the old Southern ruling class, the sort of people that Frederick Bancroft exposed so brilliantly in his "Slave Trading in the Old South." The Shoremen were naturally shocked that Ritchie, who had quietly acquiesced in their savagery for so long, suddenly took action against them. But to suppose that of such people and such ideology revolutions are made is to expose oneself to the ridicule of thinking people. The truth of the matter is that when bread is scarce, lynchings provide highly satisfactory circuses.

Since Mr. Johnson, a Southerner like myself, writes "aristocrat" not in quotation marks, but quite seriously without them, I assume that he believes there is in our section such an animal. For his enlightenment I suggest the chapter "The Southern Pattern" in V. F. Calverton's "The Liberation of American Literature."

Baltimore, Md. VERA FULTON.

TOLEDO, O.
TIMES
JUN 6 1934

Governor Rolph

Headline: "Governor Rolph Dies; Noted for Approval of Kidnap Lynching."

When Governor Rolph was on his deathbed last week, Will Rogers wrote that persons who denounced him because he applauded the work of the mob that lynched the slayers of Brooke Hart on Nov. 26, 1933, broke his heart.

It is true that Governor Rolph had thousands of friends, that he boasted that more people called him "Jim" than was the case with any other living man, that he had a notable career.

Death and time are healers and in the long perspective of history Governor Rolph's record of public service may overshadow the mistake he made last November. Will Rogers said he was "doing nothing but speaking from his heart and not from political tact." The fact remains, however, that it was a grievous error of judgment for a public official to condone the rule of the mob, as Governor Rolph did. It is an object lesson to millions of Americans that his obituary article should be captioned as it was.

DAYTON, O.
JOURNAL
JUN 5 1934

THE LATE GOVERNOR ROLPH.

IN THEIR last days, when they are sick, men often commit acts and give expression to thoughts which would not have been theirs in their years of health. Men who understand the immediate and potential dangers of lynching could not follow Governor James Rolph, Jr., of California in his approval of what he regarded as summary justice. We like to believe, however, that Governor Rolph in his prime could never have approved of lynching. Certainly he made no such utterance in his prime. And, now that he is dead, the kindest opinion that may be held of his approval of lynching is that his words were the words of a sick man, influenced, perhaps, by the philosophy of an older west. He was not yet on his death bed when he applauded the lynchings at San Jose. But he was a sick man, and his sickness may well have influenced his judgment.

Aside from his approval of lynching, there is nothing in the record of Governor Rolph to which anyone can point with scorn. A playboy, who was at his best at the banquet table, or at the dinners where he served as host, he was not one of America's most advanced social thinkers. But he was an honest and able public official of the old school. His geniality and deep laughter won him a host of friends, and San Francisco elected him mayor for term after term—until he came to stand as a symbol of the friendly city overlooking the Golden Gate. His record as mayor, and his wide popularity, finally brought about his elevation to the office of governor.

If there is one mark against the late Governor Rolph, let us remember, now that he is dead, that there is one mark—and in some cases more than one mark—against more than one man in more than one field of activity to whom history, looking at their records in their entirety, has given its stamp of approval.

DAYTON, O.
JOURNAL
JUN 6 1934

APATHY OVER LYNCHINGS.

AMERICAN citizens wax furiously indignant when lynchings occur, and then many of them promptly go back to sleep when no lynchings are occurring. And it is this apathy of the nation that is likely to prevent action on lynchings in the present congress.

Its proponents claim that at least 14 lynchings have been prevented since the Costigan-Wagner anti-lynching bill was introduced in congress, because of fear that such lynchings would speed enactment of the bill. Some may doubt so broad a statement, but it cannot be denied that the measure which would give federal aid to the states to suppress lynchings would go a long way toward wiping out this crimson blot on our national escutcheon.

Organizations with a total membership of 40,000,000 persons have indorsed the bill and are fighting for it. President Roosevelt has publicly declared his wish for a vote at this session of congress. Polls of the senate and the house reveal a strong majority for the bill. What then is keeping it from a vote?

It would appear that a very small bloc in the senate is determined to prevent the bill from being called to the floor before congress adjourns. One senator, who comes from a state which has one of the worst of lynching records, is reported as saying that the bill would be voted on "over my dead body." Another senator from a state with a similar lynching record has threatened a filibuster if the president's request for a vote is complied with.

An aroused public opinion sweeping the nation is the only thing that can insure enactment of this needed legislation.

TORONTO, ONT.
MAIL & EMPIRE
JUN 5 1934

CALIFORNIA GOVERNOR WHO DEFENDED LYNCHING

By J. V. McAREE.

JAMES ROLPH, Jr., governor of California, was one of the most popular sons of the state. He was wealthy, affable, good natured, energetic, shrewd and altogether one of the most dangerous men in American public life. He seems to have had no vices except the rather tolerable social ones, and the only thing really wrong with him was that he had no conscience. We speak of the late governor of course in his public relations. Privately we have no doubt he was a fond husband and an indulgent, sympathetic father. But there was nothing a mob wanted him to do that he would not do. He was an outstanding groveller to public opinion, forgetting that what is public opinion to-day may be, next week, something the public will blush to remember. But Governor Rolph apparently found it more profitable and more congenial, to yield to every public demand, or what appeared to be the public demand, rather than stand by a principle in the knowledge that if he did so people would respect him and would come to look on him as a real leader. So with all his endearing private qualities we must consider him as a representative of the worst kind of public man. The breed is not confined to the United States. We have seen numerous specimens in Toronto.

Praised Lynching.

The governor, although perhaps the best liked man in California, was unknown to the outside world until a lynching took place at San Jose last Winter. Two men were taken from the jail and hanged by a mob. They had confessed to the brutal kidnapping and murder of a young man. Incidentally, a subsequent investigation indicated that at least one of the confessions could not possibly have been an accurate account of what happened. But the guilt of the two men seemed unquestioned to the mob of citizens who did the lynching. Instead of voicing the usual hypocritical disapproval of the act as governors of lynching states do, Governor Rolph said: "They made a good job of it, and I hope this lesson will serve in every state of the Union. I don't think they will arrest any one of the lynchers. If they do I'll pardon them. No kidnapper will ever be turned loose while I'm governor. Kidnappers will learn they are not safe even in our penitentiaries." He spoke jocularly of turning over all the convicts now in prison for kidnapping to "those fine, patriotic citizens of San Jose who know how to handle such a situation." Before the lynching, and when it was generally known that an effort would be made to release and kill the murderers, the governor cancelled an important engagement outside the state so that he could remain on the scene. He said: "If I had gone away someone would have called out the troops on me. Why should I call out troops to protect those two follows?"

Actions Approved by Constituents.

There was a nation-wide storm of protest, but apparently it did not disturb Governor Rolph. He and Herbert Hoover, a citizen of the state, exchanged biting remarks, the governor reminding the former president that he had called out federal troops to drive bonus marchers out of Washington. The only penalty inflicted upon Governor Rolph was his expulsion from the national advisory board of the National War Veterans Association. California, however, did not disapprove, much less disavow, his actions. Indeed, as the New York Herald Tribune says, his constituents regarded his action as perfect in character. He acted, the consensus was, according to his lights—as a natural man, not as a governor. So there was not a blackguard or a mental defective in the state who could not understand perfectly this action. The other occasion upon which the eyes of others than Californians were turned expectantly upon him was in 1931. ←

Continued on front of card

Lynchings - 1934
Discussion

White Press, Northern.

4582

Time
Chicago Ill.
DEC 31 1934

RACES

White Blood for Black

The three-day race riots at Knoxville in 1921 splotched an ugly stain on the State of Tennessee. Last week Tennessee wiped away its 13-year-old stain with the blood of four white men.

Lillian Gibson, a Tennessee hill girl of 15, lived at Fall Creek, went to school at Stump Valley, near Shelbyville. One afternoon last month she started home after school. A while later, her teacher said, Lillian came running frantically back. Her clothes were partly torn off, her body bitten and bruised. She was screaming "I'm gonna have a baby!"

That night John Gibson, Lillian's father, and a wrathful posse of 300 hillmen scoured the woods, caught a 22-year-old illiterate Negro named E. K. Harris. He was accused of Lillian's rape, taken to the Shelbyville jail. When a hill-billy mob went to Shelbyville, demanding that Harris be turned over to them, authorities spirited Harris away, first to Murfreesboro, then up to Nashville.

Last week Harris' trial was scheduled to begin at Shelbyville. Circuit Judge Coleman sensed trouble. The sheriff requested from Governor Hill McAlister enough militiamen to prevent disorder. Accordingly, when Harris was brought into Shelbyville he was riding in an olive drab militia truck and men from three companies of the 117th Tennessee National Guard were riding along with him.

Father Gibson had inflamed his mountain neighbors by telling them that Dr. E. E. Moody, a general practitioner of Shelbyville, had told him that Lillian was pregnant. The backcountry folk in turn rallied hundreds of Shelbyville's rabble, marched on the court house when the trial started. In the court room, Judge Coleman heard the mob shouting outside, tried to calm spectators with the assurance that it was just some sort of Christmas parade. No parade, the mobsters charged the court house twice. The 110 guardsmen returned tear gas for rocks, held firm. The third time the mob charged, militia officers, determined to hold the court house, ordered "Fire!" A countryman named Pat L[illegible] spun around like a top, fell eight feet [illegible] the court house porch to a concrete [illegible] below, dying. A house painter named [illegible] Edwards dropped with a bullet through his chest. Two other countrymen were mortally wounded. Twenty in the mob were peppered in the legs with buckshot.

As the would-be lynchers turned tail under the blast, Judge Coleman hastily declared a mistrial, ruefully admitted that the attempt to prosecute the case at Shelbyville was "a mistake." G[illegible]men wrapped puttees around Negro [illegible]' trembling legs, clapped a gas mas[illegible] his black face, covered his shabby sweater with a militia greatcoat, rushed him out to an automobile. Determined officers sped the blackamoor to Nashville and safety. Their job done, the troops marched out to the edge of Shelbyville and pitched camp.

Stakes were barely in the ground before the infuriated mobsters returned to the court house square. They upturned four National Guard trucks, set them afire. Then they stormed the 75-year-old court house, sloshed gasoline all over its floors, touched it off with matches. Firemen never had a chance. The mob stood guard over their work until the large brick building was a roaring furnace. The court house burned all night. All county records were destroyed.

Acme

DEFENDANT HARRIS

The courthouse, not he, was lynched.

Shelbyville businessmen, aroused at the havoc their country cousins and excitable fellow townsmen had wrought, held a mass meeting, formed a vigilante corps. Dr. Moody told newshawks that he thought that Lillian was not pregnant, had not actually been raped. Indeed, she was back at school.

Nevertheless Father Gibson swore a mighty oath, declaring: "The fire hain't started to burn yet. Our people back in the hills ain't agoin' to forget. They can keep the National Guards here for months, but that won't matter. I took Pat Lawes, who was my nephew by marriage, and Gill Freeman with me to the trial in my truck. Now both of 'em are dead. Governor McAlister is the man who did it all."

WASHINGTON, D. C.
POST
DEC 24 1934

"Judge Lynch."

To the Editor of The Post—Sir: Your editorial of December 21, entitled "The Impeachment of Judge Lynch," is a stirring expression of insight and of courage. It is most gratifying and encouraging to find that a national newspaper such as The Post has taken its place at the side of Gov. McAlister, of Tennessee, and joined the forces of law and constitutional procedure against the onslaughts of a rabid mob bent on venting its fury and vengeance in a lynching.

At last there has been found a Governor who is courageous enough to demonstrate that the hideous crime of lynching can be stopped by the exercise of the sovereignty of the State over mob violence. As a clergyman, I recognize that the desire to participate in the barbarity of a lynching is a disease of the human spirit, and it is therefore the task of religion and education to change that spirit. But it is just as truly the duty of the State to preserve order under law, and the State has the right to declare that interference with the officers of the law, and the burning of a courthouse of the State, is treason against the State.

You have, in this editorial, given the people of Washington one more instance to add to the many which makes them thankful and grateful for the possession of a morning newspaper such as The Post has now grown to be, a newspaper presenting the most comprehensive reports of all the news, and edited with intelligence and distinction.

REV. RUSSELL J. CLINCHY.
Washington, Dec. 21.

Mass Attack on Lynching

By MAX STERN

ORGANIZATIONS representing total memberships of 42,000,000 Americans from church, labor and other circles are actively preparing to push passage of the Costigan-Wagner anti-lynching bill in the coming session of Congress, the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People has reported.

The measure will be reintroduced at an early date by Sens. Costigan (D., Colo.) and Wagner (D., N. Y.). This measure, already given extended hearings, provides Federal fines of from $2000 to $10,000 may be imposed upon counties in which lynchings have been permitted. The fines collected would be turned over the victims' heirs.

ASK 'UNEQUIVOCAL ACTION'

In a memorial to President Roosevelt a group of 48 organizations urged the Chief Executive to put the Costigan-Wagner bill on his "must" program in his opening address to Congress.

"Only unequivocal action by yourself as the leader of American opinion can overcome the objections even to a vote on the measure by a small group in the Senate who prevented a vote during the last session of Congress," says the memorial.

"In behalf of the good name of America we respectfully urge immediate action upon the convening of Congress to the end that the Federal Government may give aid, as it has in the case of kidnaping, to the states in stamping out this notorious American crime."

The memorial cites the "shameless abduction" of a prisoner from Alabama to Florida as an example of the lynch evil. Since 1882, it says, 5068 humans have been lynched in the U. S., with less than a dozen convictions. During 1934 there were 18 lynchings, yet while the Costigan-Wagner bill was pending there was a complete cessation of the crime for six months. After Congress adjourned without action on it 16 lynchings occurred.

The organizations backing the anti-lynching measure include Y. W. C. A., Y. M. C. A., Writers' League Against Lynching, Maryland Anti-Lynching Federation, Congregational Commission on Lynching, City-Wide Forum of Baltimore, Committee on Race Relations of the Society of Friends, the Federal Council of Churches, the League for Industrial Democracy, the Church League for Industrial Democracy, the Fellowship of Reconciliation, the Josephite Order of Baltimore, American Civil Liberties Union, National Urban League.

National Association for the Advancement of Colored People, the Methodist Federation of Social Service, the Interdenominational Preachers Meeting of New York and Vicinity, Women's International League for Peace and Freedom, Women's Missionary Council of the Methodist Episcopal Church, South, Board of National Missions of the Presbyterian Church, U. S. A., and the Social Justice Commission of the Central Conference of American Rabbis.

GREEN BAY, WIS.
PRESS-GAZETTE

DEC 24 1934

A BLACK MAN IN THE SOUTH.

The killing of men, even in a mob bent upon an unlawful purpose, is always deplorable, but in Tennessee it seemed necessary.

The mob was inflamed by the conviction that a black man had outraged a white woman. Arbitrarily it ruled that he was not to even have the privilege of gasping out his defense such as it may be. As usual the mob was wrong. Is it not ever wrong?

An organization, composed chiefly of men and women of the South, has been making during the last ten years a painstaking inquiry into every lynching case and its carefully prepared report supports the conclusion that about 25 per cent of those destroyed were innocent of any wrong-doing whatsoever.

Only a few months ago a Texas negro, arrested upon suspicion, was shot by the father of the girl involved, even before he could voice a denial, and a few days later the guilty man was apprehended, duly identified, confessed, pled guilty, and was sentenced to death.

These outrages upon the blacks must cease.

The administration of justice in the Southern states, where most of the negroes live, is wholly in white hands. The whites make the laws, elect the judges, fill the jury-box, and therefore execute the laws. As a matter of fact a black man is convicted on less evidence and given a harsher punishment than a white man for the same offense.

Is that not enough of a distinction?

Responsible leaders in the South declare that the mob is almost invariably led by those members of the community that are themselves ignorant, lawless and irresponsible.

American principles are not worth their writing when those who are lowly, friendless and helpless are destroyed upon a mere accusation, and without any consideration of such facts as may be properly presented in their behalf.

HARTFORD, CONN
COURANT

DEC 27 1934

LYNCH LAW

Its Wrongs and Its Savagery Are Subject to Discussion

To the Editor of The Courant:—

The accounts in your paper of the recent attempts of lynching in Tennessee brought several points to mind.

It is the same old story of a Negro attacking a white girl. When this happens the county rises up in protest. Has it ever occurred to those who protest just what the Negro thinks when the case is reversed and a white man maliciously attacks a Negro girl? They have probably thought nothing of it, or better still, let it escape their minds intentionally. These incidents don't appear in the paper.

Of course, the Negro doesn't use such a barbaric and hideous method as lynching to avenge a wrong which has been wrought upon a female of the Negro race. He is too high-minded, too superior to the white man to stoop and degrade himself with such unjustifiable and unlawful actions. Would those who protest when a white girl is allegedly attacked be satisfied to see a white man who has overstepped his bounds set up as an example to the public by the Negro?

Many of those who desire lynching refer to the courts of justice in America as "so-called" courts. They are intimating in that bit of irony their disregard of law and their affection and eagerness for mob rule and mob dominance. They also imply that the courts are ineffective in their methods, and therefore are not qualified to govern and to exercise the laws of America. They don't think of the ruinous and harmful effect mob law has upon humanity. They do not think of the inefficacy of mob law, but they revel in the glamor, the lust and the avidness which the mob displays when it takes the law into its own hands. They would gladly build their government on such a foundation as hatred, jealousy, and lawlessness.

Has it ever occurred to the mobs that if many such cases were tried in courts they would be thrown out because of lack of evidence?

SPENCER H. SHAW.
Hartford, Dec. 21, 1934.

NIAGARA FALLS, N. Y.
GAZETTE

DEC 26 1934

TENNESSEE THWARTS A MOB

A welcome variation from the uniform rule of success attending lynching enterprises is reported from Shelbyville, Tenn., where, for a change, the forces of law presented a determined front, with the result that another mob murder was not added to the shameful record.

Customarily, the law enforcement agencies of states in which lynchings are common merely go through the motions of opposition when the crowds, usually inspired by a liberal indulgence in corn liquor, gather around the jail, demand their victim, take him to the outskirts, kill him and burn his body.

As a rule, the sheriffs and deputies charged with responsibility for the safe custody of the prisoner, attempt the fulfillment of their duties only in the most perfunctory fashion. As a result of their feeble resistance, another murder is staged.

At Shelbyville, however, something in the nature of an awakened official conscience was encountered. An attempt to storm the court house was repulsed by a withering fire from the machine guns of national guardsmen. Terror reigned, the ancient court house was destroyed by fire and frenzied men terrorized the Negro sections of the city.

But the prisoner was guarded and removed to Nashville, where he will be held to await trial in accordance with the due processes of law. Tennessee has reason for pride in the sternness and effectiveness with which she met a serious threat against her honor as a state.

CUMBERLAND, MD.
TIMES

DEC 27 1934

COMMUNITY PUNISHES ITSELF

In a land of civilization, law and order, it is hard to account for any lynching mob. It is especially hard in such a case as the one at Shelbyville, Tenn., last week, which burned down its own courthouse in an apparent attempt to "get even" with somebody or something.

Primitive race hatred, blood lust or thirst for vengeance might explain, though it would not condone, the killing of a black man accused of assaulting a white girl. In this case, the prisoner was removed by courageous and self-respecting officers of the law in time to prevent that disgrace. The law apparently was to take its course. Whereupon the baffled crowd made a bonfire of its Temple of Justice.

That will make it harder to transact all public business in the county. It will interfere with public services in behalf of many members of that mob. It will saddle heavy expense upon the county taxpayers. It will remind Shelbyville for years of its deep disgrace.

Perhaps nothing should be done about that blackened and gutted courthouse. Perhaps it should be left for a permanent memorial.

MARSHALL, MO.
DEMOCRAT NEWS

DEC 28 1934

THE MOB AT WORK—

A gruesome chapter to the violence of mobs has been written at Shelbyville, Tenn. There a mob sought to seize and lynch a Negro the law was determined to protect. Troops were sent to the place. The mob was warned. It disregarded the warning and was met by tear gas. When the mob came a second time an unusual procedure was taken. Troops fired directly into the mass of humanity. Two were fatally wounded and others injured, some of whom may die. The Negro, disguised as a member of the guard, was spirited away unknown to the mob.

Mobs have been warned before. Usually nothing has been done except to use tear gas on them. They perhaps have come to understand that is the limit. After every act of mob violence there are solemn announcements by officials, from governor down, that there will be a thorough investigation and the guilty punished. A perfunctory investigation is conducted. Nothing else happens.

There will, of course, be criticism of the soldiers for firing into the mob even though they were doing their duty, upholding the law they had sworn to uphold at any cost. But the Shelbyville story furnishes an interesting chapter on mob psychology and a refutation of the story, usually told in justification of the riotous throng, that it is seeking justice.

The mob merely seeks a human life. There is usually justification and that is all that is required. A clever mob leader can work great evil. The mob does not ask if it has the right man. It wants a victim. It is out first for revenge for some crime, alleged or real, and then soon is in a mood for destruction. That was evidenced at the Shelbyville disturbance.

When the mob discovered it had been cheated of its prisoner, it was not satisfied. It knew it could not wreak vengeance on the man then, but the lust for destruction ran high. So it set to work to burn the courthouse. It threatened to burn the jail. It overturned motor trucks and burned them.

It was out for damage. It was damaging its own ommunity and assessing a bill against the people of at community. It was destroying property which st a lot of tax money to build and would cost more s to replace. All this was done with the knowledge that it would aid in no way in getting the prisoner, who already had been taken to a distant county. But that is the mob. It is fury and unreason in human form.

Lynchings - 1934
Discussion

White Press, Northern.

4583

ST. PAUL, MINN.
DISPATCH
DEC 20 1934

THE SHELBYVILLE MOB.

A mob is like some thousand-headed mad beas out of ancient mythology.

When the members of the mob that cause the disorders at Shelbyville, Tennessee, Wednesday cool off, they will wonder what lunacy seize them to attempt to rush a force of determine national guardsmen and to burn down their own property, the county courthouse.

The loss of life is a tragedy, but there can be no compromise with mobs and lynch law. Given authorities inflexible in their determination to do their duty, and the horror of mob murder in America will be completely eradicated in time.

The mob missed its prey, and then in its insane fury burned down a public building which these same men, as taxpayers, will have to help rebuild. It is another proof of the temporary insanity which sweeps over men in a mob and causes them to do horrible crimes of which as individuals they would not be capable.

UTICA, N. Y.
OBSERVER DISPATCH
DEC 26 1934

A Mob's Lack of Thought

Both the kind of firmness which officers of the law ought to show in times of stress and the utter irrationality which can pervade a mob were strikingly illustrated by the tragic events at Shelbyville, Tenn., where national guardsmen foiled an attempted lynching.

The bloodshed which attended that clash is, of course, an extremely regrettable thing. Yet it goes without saying that if officers of the law everywhere were as determined about protecting the prisoners in their charge as these Tennessee officers were in this case, lynching would speedily cease.

But it would be hard to think of anything much more senseless than the would-be lynchers' action in burning down their own court house. They will have to build a new one, and the money will come out of their own pockets. A more unintelligent way of venting their anger could hardly be imagined.

Brooklyn, N. Y. Eagle
JAN 3 1935

The 1934 Lynching Record.

Little comfort can be taken by Americans from the fact that lynchings during 1934 showed a decline from the figure of the previous year. In 1933 there were 28; last year there were 16. On the basis of all civilized standards, there were still 16 too many. The most heartening incident of the year in relation to this problem was the courage displayed by Governor Hill McAllister of Tennessee, who prevented a lynching in Shelbyville by calling out the militia and resisting the mob by gunfire. If more Governors substituted such forthright action for the complacence with which we have grown all too familiar the ardor of the lawless gangs would quickly be cooled.

A lasting solution of this problem, however, depends upon a more realistic approach by local and national authorities. President Roosevelt displayed good judgment when in his address before the recent National Crime Conference in Washington he listed lynching, along with banditry, kidnaping and wholesale drug peddling, as the type of crime against which the force of outraged public opinion must be built up. Previous efforts to pass through Congress a national anti-lynching bill have been blocked by Southern opposition. Every possible pressure should be brought to bear on the new Congress to force the passage of the Wagner-Costigan anti-lynching measure, which is scheduled to be brought before it.

LOS ANGELES, CALIF.
DAILY NEWS
DEC 25 1934

Spoiling the Party

MANY precedents and traditions of the old south were upset in the Shelbyville lynching outrage last week.

By promptly calling out the national guard, the governor made lynching a hazardous pastime in Tennessee.

The state soldiers displayed none of the sympathy with the mob that has so often made their presence at contemplated lynchings perfunctory and futile.

While the object of their vengeance escaped, three of the would-be lynchers paid the outlaw's penalty with their lives. The only familiar features of the affair were that the sheriff took to the tall timber when the mob threatened him and that not one of the valiant thousand who burned down the courthouse to vent their disappointment and frustration would volunteer for a blood transfusion after their fellow mobbers were shot down. The soldiers furnished the blood.

Perhaps it is too much to expect that a Tennessee jury may convict those under arrest for participation in the crime but at least they will hesitate before they again try taking the law into their own hands. —R. R. K.

BINGHAMTON, N. Y.
PRESS
DEC 27 1934

Judge Lynch

From the Christian Science Monitor

Determination of organized society in the United States to curb all forms of crime, including lynching, is vividly reflected in the otherwise appalling reports from Shelbyville, Tenn. The vicious temper of a mob cost at least two of its members their lives when National Guardsmen repulsed with bullets and bayonets an attack on the Bedford County Courthouse, where a young negro was on trial.

Regrettable it may be that the soldiers found it necessary to shed blood to protect the defendant, who was whisked away by the law's forces before the angry crowd realized what had happened. But dispatches from the scene picture the disciplined forces as up against an unusually aggravated form of undisciplined violence. Thwarted in their attempt to seize their prey, members of the mob later set fire to the courthouse and to troop trucks, and marauded about the town threatening entirely innocent negroes. Their behavior, like that of so many lynching parties, was indicative not so much of desire for justice as for an outlet for all the base and, violently aimless emotions which swarm around the appetite for revenge.

President Roosevelt's speech to the Crime Conference at Washington 10 days ago called attention to the need of coping with "horrifying lynchings," which, the President observed, were unfortunately "no longer confined to one section of the country." The Crime Conference, however, did not include this form of crime in its discussion. It might have done so with profit, for lynching is a subject on which some important popular misconceptions exist.

Basically, of course, the lynching disgrace arises out of something deeper than a racial problem. It is interesting that what is generally thought to be its chief cause is responsible for less than one-fourth of the lynchings in 40 years. It is worthy of note that the proportion of lynchings is lower in the Black Belt, where negroes constitute more than half the population, than in counties with only 25 per cent negro population. And it is encouraging that in the last decade lynching has declined markedly.

The gathering force of active public support for law and order, as well as the failure—with tragic results—of the lynching attempt at Shelbyville, encourages belief that crime, whether coolly premeditated and organized, or flaming out of the peat bogs of human resentment, is meeting an effective check.

OTTAWA, ONT., CAN.
EVENING CITIZEN
DEC 27 1934

LYNCH MOB ENCOUNTER

A mob of several hundred persons in a Tennessee town last Wednesday night set fire to the county court house. They had been baffled in an effort to seize an imprisoned negro. Evidently they intended to lynch the negro before he could be tried in court on a charge of assaulting a white girl. When they found that the negro had been conveyed secretly to another town by the authorities for trial, the mob burned down the court house. State troops had to be mobilized to defend the law enforcement officers against the mob. Before the rioters could be repulsed, national guardsmen had to open fire with rifles, killing two and wounding others in the mob.

People in this northern part of America can hardly appreciate the problem of law administration in some of the southern states. President Roosevelt has made it clear, however, that he is determined to enforce the law against lynch mobs as well as against gangsters. There cannot be an orderly state of society where lynching is tolerated any more than where kidnapping and similar crimes are allowed to go unchecked.

The inflamed passion of the lynch mob is just as loathesome as the brutality of the kidnapper. It is so much the worse because of the mob's pretence that it is executing righteous judgment, when lynching is nothing more than a sadistic complex among self-righteous people.

GENEVA, N. Y.
TIMES

DEC 26 1934

THE SHELBYVILLE MOB

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Primitive race hatred, blood lust or thirst for vengeance might explain, though it would not condone, the killing of a black man, accused of assaulting a white girl. In this case the prisoner was removed by courageous and self-respecting officers of the law in time to prevent that disgrace. The law apparently was to take its course. Whereupon the baffled crowd made a bonfire of its Temple of Justice.

That will make it harder to transact all public business in the county. It will interfere seriously with public services in behalf of many members of that mob. It will saddle heavy expense upon the county taxpayers. It will remind Shelbyville for of its deep disgrace.

Perhaps nothing should be done about that blackened and gutted courthouse. Perhaps it should be left for a permanent memorial.

CAMDEN, N. J.
COURIER

DEC 27 1934

LYNCHINGS CAN BE STOPPED

The way to stop lynchings—is to stop them.

That is the moral of what happened Wednesday night at Shelbyville, Tennessee.

It is not pleasant to think of American citizens being mowed down by machine guns. The necessity for such drastic measures is almost as disgraceful as lynching itself.

But the fact remains that recent lynch mobs in Maryland, California, Louisiana and Florida have carried out their intention—because the forces of law and order did not act.

In Florida, only a few weeks ago, the forces of the law, taking their cue from Governor Dave Sholtz, openly tolerated one of the most revolting lynchings in history—a sure method of breeding mob violence in the future.

The Shelbyville mob was thwarted chiefly because of the attitude of Governor Hill McAlister, who apparently made up his mind to enforce the law at any cost.

If more governors were willing to follow his example, it would not take long to stamp out these revolting crimes.

The feeling has prevailed that a really firm stand against lynching would be political suicide. It is our guess that this belief is mistaken. The majority of people in the South are just as opposed to lynching as those in the North.

Governor McAlister may find political rewards for the performance of his duty. Certainly he deserves them.

The handful of national guardsmen also deserve credit. They kept their heads and their determination to protect the prisoner.

* * * * * *

After the guardsmen left, an event occurred which throws considerable light on the lynch spirit.

The mob deliberately burned the courthouse.

There was no conceivable purpose in this act of sheer vandalism. Doesn't this strengthen the contention that a part of the lynch psychology is savage manifestation of the spirit of rowdyism?

The mob was not revenging itself on the Negro. It was destroying county property which the members of the mob will have to pay to replace. The would-be lynchers might easily have burned down their own homes as a result of firing the courthouse.

The only explanation is that they were out to destroy. And when they were deprived of a human victim they built a big bonfire—the courthouse—instead.

When this aspect of the lynch motive is more clearly understood perhaps officials will be less likely to excuse and condone and let mobs have their way.

PROVIDENCE, R. I.
NEWS TRIBUNE

DEC 24 1934

AT SHELBYVILLE

It is very probable that the country will have to read shame-facedly the record of other outbreaks like that at Shelbyville, Tenn., before the crime of lynching is wiped out. But though the conduct of the Shelbyville mob humiliated all good Americans, the picture was not as bad as it might have been. There is great satisfaction to be derived from the fact that Gov. Hill McAlister acted vigorously to prevent a lynching and that the troops dispatched to the town performed their duty loyally and bravely. If his people as a whole stand with him in his defence of organized law, the accused Negro will have a fair trial, and his case will be disposed of on its merits.

But the governor and the law will need that sort of strong backing, for the very elements which sought to lynch the prisoner will, unless customs have changed considerably, be organized secretly to carry out their purpose either by intimidating jurymen or in some other fashion. The record of the Scottsboro case shows that the time has not yet come when all sections of the South are ready to give a Negro charged with certain crimes his day in court free of racial prejudice.

But no reference to lynching in the South would be complete if it were to omit a tribute to the enlightened men and women there who are working to extirpate lynching. They are, we believe, making notable progress in the regions to which they pay particular attention. Unfortunately, however, lynchings have been carried out in recent years far beyond the limits of the territory where Judge Lynch first appeared—and not solely lynchings of Negroes. There must be no let-up in the education of communities against this evil. Nor could it begin better than by such a vigorous assertion of the law's supremacy as we have just seen in Tennessee.

Lynchings-1934
Discussions.

White Press, Southern.

4506

Lynn Haven, Fla., Free Press
November 10, 1934

LYNCH LAW

(By John H. Carter)
In Jackson County Floridan

What is commonly known as Lynch Law, is the infliction of summary punishment without legal procedure; summary justice at the hands of a mob, without any process of law. It is not confined to any country, or any class of the human race. The offense, rather than the offender, is the thing that lights the mob's torch.

Lynching is very prevalent in the United States, too prevalent. It is said to go back to Revolutionary times, when Charles Lynch (1736-1796), a Virginia planter and Justice of the Peace, greatly exceeded his powers of punishment on the Tories and Loyalists when brought before him. He with Robert Adams and Thomas Callaway, undertook to protect society and support the American cause against traitors and scalawags, by summanry punishment. Lynch was a man of considerable influence in his community (Bedford County), and for many years was a member of the Virginia Legislature. He was later an officer in the American Army.

Lynch law flourishes most in sparsely settled districts, or sections where government is weak, and officers of the law are too few, or too weak to enforce the law. In the beginning of lynching in this country, it did not punish with death. It consisted principally in whipping (whitecapping), and similar punishments, outside the law. But it gradually extended to more serious offenses, and more drastic punishment.

In frontier days it was most prevalent in the West (the country west of the Mississippi); and it has been said that the civilization of the West had its foundation upon lynch law. When this population expanded westward faster than civil institutions could follow, there were always outlaws and desperadoes who lived by preying on the better class. Uncaught criminals from every section of the country went West for safety, and it was a common saying in the South when a criminal got away, or had evaded arrest, the "he had gone to Texas." That expression did not mean the State of Texas alone, but it applied to the entire West. Those undesirables, and bandits of the West got to be as numerous as the covered wagon families of law-abiding immigrants. To suppress the outlaws, and to protect property against theft and depredation, these settlers used lynch law for punishment. Horse and cattle thieves were invariably lynched, as were murderers, robbers, and criminals generally. Gradually the outlaws and undesirables were eliminated from the civil communities, and only the best people were left to build the community.

In the South, in Reconstruction days, lynching was resorted to as swift punishment for crime, and is with us today. But it is now confined practically to one offense, and only one punishment, death, As hard as we try to wipe it out, it remains with us. It is going to remain, undoubtedly, until civil government is made stronger, and public sentiment is educated up to demand legal punishment only, for all crimes. It is one thing to say, "Let the law take its course" and another for men to stand emotionless in the presence of a crime that staggers humanity. Lynch law is deplorable. But civil institutions must be greatly strengthened before they will supplant the lynching evil. Lynch law is a challenge to the weakness of legal procedure.

DRIVE IS RESUMED AGAINST LYNCHING

News

New Campaign For Federal Legislation Proposed In Congress

11-17-34

Birmingham, Ala.

WASHINGTON—(AP)—A record of 20 lynchings in the last 10 months has inspired a new campaign for federal legislation intended to restrain this type of lawlessness which its leaders are hopeful may result in enactment at the coming session.

The Wagner-Costigan bill will be reintroduced at the outset and agitation is growing for amendments to the Lindbergh kidnaping law to make it applicable to such cases as that of a Negro seized by a mob in Alabama and lynched in Florida.

The former measure, subject of extensive committee hearings last Winter, would establish penalties for state and county officers from whom a lynching victim is seized and would provide procedure for the recovery of damages from the county by the victim's heirs.

The Lindbergh law, enacted shortly after the kidnaping and murder of the famous flier's infant son, makes kidnaping a federal offense if the kidnaped person is carried across a state line and ransom or extortion is involved.

Justice Department heads ruled it would not cover the recent Alabama-Florida case because of the ransom and extortion proviso.

This has led proponents of anti-lynching legislation into a campaign to make the statute explicitly applicable to such a case.

The attitude of the administration is expected to be what it was when the Wagner-Costigan bill was discussed nearly a year ago. It neither backs nor opposes the measure, leaving the question to the determination of Congress.

The subject is always an interesting one for Capitol Hill. The House in 1922 approved an anti-lynching bill written by Representative Dyer, of Missouri, only to have the measure defeated in the Senate. It's supporters claim that a Southern filibuster was responsible.

A jump from 33 lynchings in 1919 to 65 in 1920, 64 in 1921 and 61 in 1922 invigorated the effort to obtain legislation at that time. Many who interest themselves in the problem have attributed the drop to 28 lynchings in 1923 and 16 in 1924 to public discussion of the question aroused by the congressional debate.

Lynching reached its lowest point in history, 10 cases in 1932. But last year saw a rise to 28 and this year's 20 for 10 months is close to the same rate.

Macon, Ga., Telegraph
November 13, 1934

Justice Again Goes Astray

The grand jury of Jackson County, Florida reported Friday that Claude Neal, the Negro who was lynched on October 19, came to his death by "persons unknown."

It will be remembered that Neal, charged with attacking and killing a white woman, was removed by a mob from the Brewton, Alabama, jail and the next morning his body, mutilated with knives and pierced by bullets, was strung from a tree on the Jackson county court house square.

Governor Sholtz, declaring, "we do not condone lynching in Florida," ordered an investigation by the grand jury and said, "some of the ringleaders of the mob are supposed to be known."

The grand jury in its report said it was not able to get much direct or positive information with reference to the lynching, practically all the evidence being hearsay and rumors.

It then solemnly declared it found that the victim of the Negro was brutally attacked and that the Negro came to his death "at the hands of a small group of persons unknown to us." The jury finds that the sheriff of the county did everything within his power to protect his prisoner, "and we commend him for his action in performing his duty."

No person suspected of being a member of the mob ever was arrested.

And this is the result of a legal inquiry into one of the most atrocious crimes ever committed in this country. Thousands of persons, at one time or another, were members of the mob, the leaders of which sent out invitations to the lynching. The Negro was held practically all day before he was tortured and killed. With fiendish bravado, the body was strung up before the very door of what we sometimes call the temple of justice.

The sheriff of the county is commended for having done his duty and yet, hour after hour, while the Negro was in custody of the mob, the officer refused to call out the national guard. The troops were only called after the crime had been committed and there was fear that violence would break out among members of the mob itself.

The crime itself was bad enough, but the action of a grand jury in failing to indict a single member of the mob, although many of them must have been well known, is absolutely inexcusable.

The women of Florida who protested against this crime pointed out that there had been forty lynchings in that state within comparatively recent years and not one single person had been punished. It seems that the same is about to become true of the latest and most damnable of these outrages.

This failure of justice is merely bringing nearer the adoption of a federal anti-lynching bill, and the sooner it comes the better it will be.

Crestview, Fla., Messenger
November 8, 1934

It seems that the "Northern Colored Peoples" does not approve of the negro lynching that occurred in Jackson county several days ago, and they have made it public that this lynching will be investigated by the grand jury, and that detectives will help run the guilty parties down.—We suggest the Northern Negro come down his self and investigate.

Brewton, Ala., Standard
November 8, 1934

Florida Gratitude

To say the least, it was a most ungrateful gesture on the part of Sheriff Chambliss, of Jackson County, Florida, in order to hide his own inefficency and inability to deal with a serious situation, to suggest to the governor of that state that Alabamians were connected with the removal from jail here and the subsequent lynching of the negro who had been brought into Alabama for safe keeping.

Such a statement from the Marianna officer would have been uncalled for had the prisoner not been rushed out of Florida at the officer's own request and because he was unable to give him the protection that the law says he should have had. In the face of the facts as they were, his suggestion to Governor Sholtz is about as lousy a piece of side-stepping as we have ever observed in a public official.

Sheriff Chambliss even went so far as to intimate that Claude Neals might have been lynched before he was returned to Florida. It is within the realm of possibility that such was the case. However, it is strange that the negro was not killed until about twenty-four hours after he was taken from the Brewton jail and then only after invitations had been issued to all of the "white folks" to be present at the ceremonies and some three thousand had assembled for the event near Marianna. It is also significant that mob leaders made inquiry here as to the distance from the Florida line and, when informed that it was only eight miles away, drove off with the negro in that direction. Yet, according to the Florida sheriff, Neals was probably killed in Alabama.

If there were ever two despicable breeds placed on the face of the earth they are hypocrites and ingrates. The Marianna sheriff clearly falls within the later classification. When he arrested Claude Neals he was under a duty to protect him. Admittedly unable to give him protection in his county, or even within his own state, Sheriff Chambliss turned to an officer in an adjoining state for aid. Unfortunately for Brewton and Sheriff Byrne, he called on Escambia County, Alabama. Sheriff Byrne was under no duty to receive the prisoner and perhaps he should not have done so. But if he erred in his action, his error was on the side of accommodation and in an effort to favor a fellow citizen who was in distress.

And now the same officer who was favored shows his appreciation by attempting to excuse ihs own incompetency with the insinuation that Alabamians were responsible in part, at least, for everything connected with the removal from jail and subsequent lyching of the prisoner.

If that is the type of officer in charge of law enforcement in Jackson County, Florida, it is little wonder that he was unable to avert a lynching that occurred under his very nose and after being publicly advertised for twenty-four hours in advance. If he is dumb enough to think that anyone with intelligence will entertain for a moment the lame excuse that he gave his governor for not preventing the lynching, the wonder of it is that he was smart enough to get the negro out of his county in the first place without having a mob hang him and Neals from the same limb.

But Sheriff Chambliss is not that dumb. He knows, if he knows anything, that every member of the mob that took the negro out of the Brewton jail was from Florida. There were only a few who came here, despite contrary reports, and we doubt not that if the truth were known the Marianna sheriff knows the identity of every one of them. Inasmuch as he was the only person in Jackson County who was supposed to know the whereabouts of Claude Neals when he was in jail here, there is a strange suspicion as to where the mob that carried Neals back to that county received its information as to the particular jail in which Neals was confined.

Possibly the Marianna ingrate explained that also to the satisfaction of Governor Sholtz while he was impressing the Florida executive with the thought that the lynching was done in Alabama and by Alabamians.

Pulaski, Va., Times
November 12, 1934

IS THIS ILLEGAL?

Claude Neal, a negro, was taken by a mob from the Brewton, Ala., jail, dragged across the state line and lynched in the woods near Marianna, Fla.

The justice department says that the Lindbergh kidnaping law does not give it power to prosecute members of the mob.

The Lindbergh law says that punishment shall be inflicted upon all persons found guilty of transporting across a state line "any person who shall have been unlawfully seized, confined, inveigled, decoyed, kidnaped, abducted or carried away by any means whatsoever and held for ransom or reward or otherwise."

Claude Neal was not "confined" nor "inveigled," nor "decoyed." He was not held for "ransom," nor for "reward." Decidedly not.

But Claude Neal was "unlawfully seized" from the custody of Alabama authorities. He was "kidnaped." He was "abducted." He was "carried away." And he was held "otherwise" than for ransom or reward. Decidedly so.

The lawyers of the Justice department say, in effect, that the kidnapers of Claude Neal wiped out their identity as kidnapers when they became the lynchers of Claude Neal. They say, in effect, that although the Federal government punishes kidnapers who try to extort money from the family of their victims, it does not punish kidnapers who merely take the life of the victim.

According to this, the mob members would have incurred the wrath of the Federal government had they held him alive and unharmed, demanding that his family pay $100—which is probably more than the family possesses—for his release. But since the mob tortured him, hanged him, and ghoulishly mutilated and exhibited his body, they purged themselves of any violation of the federal law.

If that is the law, it is a travesty of justice. At least the justice department should test the law in the courts.

Bristol, Va., Herald-Courier
November 12, 1934

That Marianna Lynching.

Claude Neal, a Negro, was accused of attacking and killing a young white woman at Marianna, Florida. He escaped across the State line into Alabama and was arrested and placed in jail at Brewton. Recently a mob organized at Marianna went over into Alabama, took the Negro from jail, carried him back to Florida and lynched him.

Declaring that "we do not condone lynching," and stating that "some of the ringleaders of the mob are supposed to be known," Governor Sholtz of Florida ordered an investigation. A Grand Jury inquired into the affair with the usual result. It found that "Claude Neal came to his death in this county at the hands of small groups of persons unknown to us after being forcibly removed from the jail at Brewton, Alabama, by persons unknown to us."

A Grand Jury has been called into session in Escambia County, Alabama, at the instance of Governor Miller of that State, to investigate the removal of Neal from the Brewton jail. The report of this Grand Jury will be awaited with small expectation that it will name any of the members of the mob. If none of the ringleaders was known to the Florida Grand Jury, although Governor Shoitz said some of them are supposed to be known, it is hardly likely that any of them will be known to the Alabama Grand Jury.

Representative Celler of New York, ranking Democrat on the House Judiciary Committee, predicts that the next Congress will pass an anti-lynching bill. The prediction may be fulfilled. The choice seems to be between a Federal law and perpetuation of a situation in which mob murder is tolerated if not condoned by the States. Meanwhile it would seem that the Government at Washington has cause to interest itself in the lynching at Marianna, since the mob took its victim from one State to another.

Talladega, Ala., Home
November 10, 1934

'The usual verdict: We find Claude Neal, a negro, was lynched by "persons unknown to us." That is the subtance of the findings of the Florida grand jury which investigated the death parade from Brewton to Marianna. The mob must have been composed entirely of early arriving winter tourists on their first visit to the "land of flowers"

Lynchings-1934
Di ssions,

White Press, Southern.

4510

St. Pete , Fla. Independent
tober 29, 1934

'Calcula. And Fully Publicized."

The good name of the state has been smeared at Marianna. When any incident, however damnably depraved, can convert thousands of citizens into raving, bloodthirsty madmen, one wonders if such people after all are fit to govern themselves. Reversion to savagery in West Florida is a dismal reminder that the days of the Neanderthal man are not so remote.

The question of the enormity of the crime charged to the negro has nothing to do with the case—if guilty, he would have been executed, and promptly, by law. There is no delay of justice in cases like that, however slow the courts may move in other cases. So far as bringing the negro to a quick trial was concerned, even mob members knew that the law would act promptly and effectively. The killing was absolutely unnecessary, as the governor charged. And what are we to think of a sheriff who assured the governor that he had the situation in hand?

That mob sank as low as the criminal—or lower, if conceivable—for its members were people with some advantages of civilization, while he was likely a mental degenerate. The planning of their crime, moreover, removed the excuse that it might have been committed under the influence of uncontrollable, unreasoning impulse. The Florida Council, Association of Southern Women for the Prevention of Lynching, described it mildly in declaring that "the premeditated, expected and fully publicized lynching . . . is a disgrace to the law-abiding citizens of Florida and the South." Lynchings have sometimes been explained away as blind fury, but here was a murder show staged coolly by its performers, with "all white folks invited to the lynching."

An investigation has been ordered. That, of course, is proper, but unfortunately there is no precedent to encourage hope that anything at all will come of it.

HOUSTON, TEX.
POST
OCT 29 1934

That Florida Lynching

FLORIDA, it appears, has given ~~all the rest~~ of the Nation a lesson in disregard for law in the lynching of a negro attacker of a white girl in the little village of Marianna.

Lynchings are nothing new in the South, but sel- [illegible] is a mob as brutal or the authorities so indifferent as in this latest act of mass violence.

If the news stories reported the situation correctly, the negro was snatched from the jail, held captive for hours and tortured as a huge crowd waited at an appointed spot for his abductors to appear and go through the ghastly ritual of killing him.

At least ten hours elapsed from the moment the negro was snatched from jail until his body, filled with bullets and seared by hot irons, was hung from a tree on the village square. In all that time no official turned a hand to save him or to uphold the law. There was sufficient time to mobilize the militia or take any other necessary steps to prevent the brutal lynching, but the mob was allowed to exact its fiendish vengeance without interference.

It is true that the crime was fiendish and that this particular mob was killing a guilty man who had confessed, but that does not change the fact that human beings in the enlightened Twentieth century resorted to brutality that sickens decent men.

As long as officers of the law forget their oaths of office and make no effort to halt mobs of this character, lynching will continue to blacken the name of the South. As long as human nature remains unchanged, mobs will form and attempt to usurp the functions of courts, judges and juries. Only courageous and prompt action by officers and officials charged with the responsibility of maintaining order can stamp out the lynchings which disgrace American civilization.

Federal Anti-Lynch Law Ahead

The lynching of the Negro, Claude Neal, in North Florida on Friday night was, in many respects, the most atrocious crime in the long and bloody history of mob violence.

The crime for which the Negro was lynched was, of course, unspeakably horrible, but in the first place it has often been pointed out that lynching for criminal assault made it easier to keep alive the whole spirit of mob violence and disregard of law so that men take matters into their own hands for many crimes of a minor nature. It is the brutalizing effect upon the popular mind which is deplored as much as the crime itself, and nothing more brutal could be imagined than some of the details with which this Florida lynching was accompanied. The mob first visited the jail at Brewton, Alabama, and practically without resistance took the Negro back to the scene of his crime near Marianna, Florida.

The word soon passed from mouth to mouth that the Negro was to be killed and immediately the countryside was alive with people in automobiles and every other conceivable vehicle, on their way to the scene of the execution, filled with vengeance and morbid curiosity.

The cold-blooded deliberation with which the affair was managed was one of its most reprehensible aspects. When the crowd became so great the blood-thirsty stage-managers became afraid that someone besides the intended victim might be hurt, so the announcement was made that the sanguinary performance would not go on until the mob had dwindled. Invitations were extended to a select few to be present.

In the meantime appeals were made to the governor of Florida to call out the National Guard to protect the Negro. The sheriff of the county and other officials persisted in declaring that they were entirely able to cope with the situation. It is doubtful if this was true and it is equally doubtful whether the sheriff had the slightest desire to protect this Negro.

While those who were invited to ring-side seats were waiting for the general mob to disperse, speeches couched in a "humorous" vein were made by way of entertainment. A heartless flippancy prevailed throughout the evening.

The body of the Negro has since been found with every evidence that he had been subjected to all kinds of torture and mutilation. "Nobody doubted, from the time constituted authorities threw up their hands, that such would be the culmination.

It is no longer pretended that the lynching of Negroes is peculiar to the South. The North and Middle West have a record on this score which gives that theory the lie, but it is high time that we should see the end of this form of barbarism.

The upshot of it all is going to be that a few more crimes like this in Florida will give the stimulus necessary for putting over in Congress a federal anti-lynching law of the most drastic character. If we can not keep our own doorstep clean the Federal Government will try its hand, and will probably succeed.

Montgomery, Ala. Journal
October 29, 1934

Without Word of Mob Action

Up until Saturday noon Governor Miller had received no word of the action of the Florida mob in storming the Brewton, Ala., jail to lynch a negro prisoner and the chief executive left for his home in Camden a bit perplexed about the failure of the Escambia county authorities to notify him. All he knew about it was what he had read in the newspaper. No request was made to him for permission to place the negro in the Brewton jail and he received no demand for military aid to preserve order.

Winterhaven, Fla., Chief
October 29, 1934

ANOTHER LYNCHING DISGRACE FOR FLORIDA.

The lynching of Claude Neal, negro, at Marianna for the murder of a white girl was just as reprehensible as that of any other lynching that has ever been committed anywhere else on earth. The crime of the negro, heinous as it was, did not excuse supposedly law-abiding Caucasians in taking the law into their own hands. The excuse that "justice might not be done" doesn't hold good, as Florida has never lost much time in putting a negro to death for a social crime. Governor Sholtz' pronouncement and that of the Florida Council of the Association of Southern Women for the Prevention of Lynching on the lynching bee hit the mark. In the interests of law and order and the sanctity of the courts, the men composing the lynching party ought to be brought to justice immediately.

Asheville, N. C., Citizen
October 28, 1934

The Florida Lynching

When the news was flashed that a Florida mob had crossed the State line and taken a prisoner out of an Alabama jail, carrying him back to Florida and there lynching him, probably there were many persons who thought that here was a case where the Federal government would be called upon to take a hand under what is popularly known as the act dealing with kidnaping which was passed a year or so ago. Attorney General Cummings is reported to have stated that the act in question does not aply in this instance, as it specifies that the kidnaping must be for ransom. It thus appears that the Federal government has no authority to intervene and Alabama, of course, will make no protest against this kind of an invasion from Florida. The crime which brought about this lynching was a particularly revolting one but it is a sorrowful thing that a whole countryside could find a bestial joy in taking the law into its own hands and meting out vengeance as was done in this case and as has been done in so many other cases. We are left to ask again the question which we have asked so many times before, "What is man?"

RALEIGH, N. C.
NEWS OBSERVER

OCT 28 1934

R. S. V. P.

In Florida where yesterday a sadistic mob committed as fiendish a lynching as has occurred in America in a long time, the hideous business was staged with all the deliberation of a blood-glutted Roman circus. The victim was taken from jail and held while invitation was circulated for all white folks to come and attend the lynching. There was change in plan at the last only in the hour and the place of the mob murder, and people, including women and children, who had come in response to invitation, had to be content with seeing no more than a mutilated carcass hanging from a tree on the Courthouse lawn. The torture, mutilation and killing was performed in the merciless privacy of a swamp.

While human decency is revolted by the details of the mob's work, the probability is that the victim suffered less than Florida justice and, by improper extension, the justice of the whole South. As Governor Dave Sholtz pointed out in his statement following the lynching, the courts of Florida have demonstrated that they can act with swiftness in the case of such brutal crimes as that to which the lynched man is alleged to have confessed. There was not the least reason to doubt that justice would be done in the courts. All that the courts would have denied in punishment was that cruelty of perverts in which the mob generously indulged itself.

But that justice was flouted. Frenzied men, acting in a pretense of justice, in fact showed their contempt for the justice and civilization of their State. They smeared their blood lust over Florida's name and showed their State to the world as one in which not only is justice flouted but lynching can be deliberately held after hours in which invitations are circulated to the whole countryside in order that men, women and children can have an opportunity to come and see.

It is possible to understand, if not excuse, a lynching which grows from a swift frenzy, but Florida has added something new to the history of brutality in America by indulging in acts commonly associated only with frenzy and perversion after long deliberation and after sending out invitations to the neighbors.

Justification Seen For Florida Lynching

Editor, The Post:

Much has been said and written since last Friday when a colored man was removed from Alabama into Florida and killed. The cause of the action of those who did that crime is not new in the South. while people north of the Mason-Dixon line are more considerate of the colored man, they too have several times done likewise for such crimes and some that were not of that nature.

The writer has always been a firm believer in law and does not approve of the action of the group that committed the crime of last Friday. But must we not, while condemning those men, likewise condemn our law and those who are responsible for its slackness? Any number of cases can be cited but allow me to take the most recent of those that have happened in North Alabama.

A white woman was mistreated by a colored man. She saw a certain knife on him, had so vividly pictured in her mind the clothes of the man and his general makeup that she was enabled to give all of those facts to the oifcers of the law before he was apprehended.

After he was caught, the knife described by this white woman was found on him, the cap he wore so vividly described by the white woman enabled an officer to detect the man. And yet, with all of those physical and concrete facts, that man is alive in prison after a jury of 12 men said he was guilty.

I personally saw the man in the hands of the law and heard an officer say to the crowd of men, "There is no doubt but that this is the man who committed the crime." Yet the citizenship allowed the law to take its course and the results we too well know.

The white woman still lives here and must face the awfulness of the public eye while the colored man who mistreated her lives on by the action of some official.

The jury believed that the man was guilty, they said what should be done to him and that was the law. Put the picture of the Florida case before you and compare that with the white woman in North Alabama and then conclude if the men who did that crime are as bad as some try to make them appear.

J. A. THORNHILL

Albany-Decatur, Ala. Daily
October 29, 1934

Stars Fell On Florida

Stars fell on Florida last Friday night and the newspapers have been having a lot to say about the incident.

According to the most of the editorial comment, the lynching which occurred, was a very, very bad thing to occur in Florida—or any other state.

The newspapers have made us fairly cognizant of the details and have impressed upon us just how horrible the whole thing was. The Daily agrees with them all to that extent. The lynching was terrible. There is no legal excuse for the whole transaction and those responsible are guilty, directly or indirectly, of a very grave crime.

Having gotten that off our chest, may we arise to inquire why no newspaper, so far as we know, has yet to comment on the gravity of the crime which the defendant, the victim in the lynching, is alleged to have confessed to perpetrating?

In most situations there are two sides to every question. In Florida a man is alleged to have attacked and later slain a young girl. The crime, according to Southern opinion, was the gravest of the grave.

Some editors voice the suggestion that legal punishment would have been quick and severe. Perhaps!

We agree that in the last analysis, such a crime being confessed, it does appear that there would have been no hesitation about our courts in dealing out to the culprit the degree of punishment which the nature of his crime merited.

Yet, such has been the record of our courts in recent years, there is ample reason for any group of people feeling that there was more than a sporting chance that the hand of justice would not deal as severely with the convicted defendant as the facts warranted.

All enlightened citizens have seen instances of delays in the administration of justice. Many of these same enlightened citizens have seen instances of miscarriage of justice because of legal technicalities or the softness of persons charged with the duty and responsibility of pardon or parole.

When we are searching for the reasons for lynchings, which we all abhor, would it be amiss to study also the reasons for irate groups taking the law into their own hands? When we criticize the people of Florida for administering their own brand of justice, would it not be within the realm of reason also to look about at our own problems and to ascertain whether or not we, the people and we, the courts, are administering justice as it should be administered?

Are our criminal cases settled with the degree of speed that they would be disposed of? Are they settled with justice to the public as well as to the defendant? After a criminal has been convicted, is the public certain that the degree of punishment the jury, after hearing the evidence, imposed, will be the degree of punishment the defendant will suffer?

When we answer those questions, we will have made a long stride toward stopping lynchings.

Until we can truthfully say that the public can rely upon its courts of justice to mete justice and its complicated system of extending leniency to convicted persons can be relied upon to deal justly with the public and the defendants within its jurisdiction, it is the humble opinion of this newspaper that we are wasting a lot of time talking about stopping the not uncommon practice of people taking the law into their own hands and administering the kind of justice a particular community demands be administered.

Pensacola, Fla. Journal
October 29, 1934

GANDY BELIEVES NEGRO'S BOASTS LED TO LYNCHING

Local Sheriff Says Slayer Of Girl Talked Too Much In Jail

Claude Neal, negro lynched by a Jackson county mob Friday night would be alive today if he had not boasted, Sheriff H. E. Gandy said yesterday.

Sheriff Gandy told his part in the activities concerning the negro's movements between the time of his arrest for the murder of Lola Cannidy, 20 year old Jackson county woman, and death at the hands of a mob Friday night.

Took Him To Brewton

Two hours after Neal was brought to the Escambia county jail last Saturday morning he was on his way to Brewton, Ala., Sheriff Gandy said.

Sheriff Gandy met Sheriff Byrne, of Escambia county, Alabama, a short distance from Brewton and turned Neal over to him.

"I told Neal he would be docked in the Brewton jail as John Smith, of Montgomery, on a vagrancy charge," Sheriff Gandy said.

"After Neal was placed in the jail I made two visits to Brewton and it was on these that we obtained the confession from him, Sheriff Gandy continued. "I am sure that it was the negro's talk in the jail and not the officers that disclosed his whereabouts. And we told him not to talk to anyone, even prisoners."

Neal was taken from the Brewton jail Friday night by a mob of about 100 men who held up the jailer there. The body of the negro was found in the courthouse square at Marianna Saturday morning.

Lynched at Greenwood

According to witnesses the negro was killed at Greenwood and his body taken to Marianna. Greenwood is a small town about 10 miles from Marianna.

Miss Cannidy's body was found about a half mile from her home in Greenwood Oct. 17. She had been beaten to death. The negro was arrested several hours after the body was found.

Lynchings-1934
Discussions

White Press, Southern

4521

SAVANNAH, GA.
NEWS
DEC 21 1934

COURT HOUSE BURNING DEPLORABLE

Tennessee officials and national guardsmen are to be commended for the courageous, prompt and effective performance of a disagreeable but necessary duty in suppressing, temporarily at least, a mob which attempted to seize a negro being tried at Shelbyville on charges of attacking a white school girl and subsequently destroyed by fire the court house. The commanding officer pursued the only defensible course to protect the orderly carrying out of justice when he ordered his men to use tear gas, bayonets, buckshot-loaded riot guns and machine guns to repulse the assaults of the mob.

The circumstances leading up to the unfortunate climax, which resulted in the killing of at least two members of the mob, were similar to those in other cases in which a frenzied desire for vengeance brings on an attempt to override the forces of law and order. Such action as that taken by the Tennessee civil and military authorities seems to be the only effective method of combating the spirit of mob violence, which if allowed to predominate would utterly block the wheels of justice and turn the country back to a land of savagery.

BIRMINGHAM, ALA.
NEWS
DEC 23 1934

The Important Lesson From The Shelbyville Affair

The horrible events at Shelbyville, Tenn., no doubt contain several lessons, but the one which is the most important of all, just as it is the most obvious, is this: mob violence, once it is let loose, knows no bounds, and is the very antithesis, not merely of law and order, but of everything we hold dear in civilization; therefore society must strive, not simply to hold mobs in check by the stern resistance of the law's arm when they do arise, though that is vitally important and necessary, but above all to eradicate the mob spirit itself.

That is not a new lesson, to be sure. But the Shelbyville affair illustrates it more forcefully than any other instance of mob action in a long time. The Tennessee mob went to the greatest extreme. Not only did it defy the law and attempt by force to defeat it; it went so far as to burn down the symbol of the law and of justice—the symbol, it might even be said, of civilization itself—the courthouse. There is nothing else that symbolizes so completely the essence of all that mankind have striven for in upbuilding civilization as the temple of justice. Yet the Shelbyville mob in its fury burned down the courthouse.

The mob was prevented from carrying out the lynching upon which it was bent—though at a frightful cost; four men are dead as a consequence. That is tragedy of the grimmest sort and it is utterly deplorable. But the state troops could not have done otherwise than perform their duty; and it must be borne in mind that the mob was the aggressor.

This affair could be duplicated every time a mob gathers. Mobs do not always go so far as this one did; but every mob holds as much potential danger and destruction. It is only by chance or circumstance that mobs do not always go to such extremes.

The lesson of Shelbyville is simply that it is best to let the law take its course. When all men realize that, the mob spirit will disappear.

NORFOLK, VA.
VIRGINIAN PILOT
DEC 21 1934

Christmas Spirit In Tennessee

Shelbyville, Tennessee, has given the country an almost perfect example of what mob rule means. Inside its courthouse a Negro, charged with criminal assault upon a white girl, was being arraigned in accordance with the processes of the law. His trial would have been completed, in the opinion of the judge, in a single day. Outside, a mob of 300 to 500 men, unwilling to await the outcome of the trial or to permit a legal decision on the issue of guilt or innocence, made three daylight attacks on the courthouse, falling back each time only after National Guardsmen had wounded or killed some of their number. Later, when the prisoner had been hustled away to Nashville and the troops had withdrawn from the courthouse, the mob, furious because it had been deprived of its victim, wreaked its vengeance on its own courthouse, setting fire to the building and preventing firemen from fighting the flames.

The results of this day's work are two members of the mob killed; a dozen more wounded, some of them critically; a courthouse valued at $150,000 in ruins; four National Guard trucks destroyed; and a whole community disgraced by an exhibition which, even in the long and bloody history of mobs in the South, stands out as among the most vicious, the most irrational on record.

What is to be said of such an exhibition? First, we think, that responsible authorities erred seriously in attempting to hold a trial in a community where, as they should have known, feeling was running so high. Under favorable conditions, that is where the trial should have been held. But there is no point to blinking the fact that in a deplorably large number of instances in the South it is unwise, because it is unsafe, to take such a risk. Shelbyville is not so far from Nashville and Chattanooga that the trial could not have been held in either city without serious inconvenience and with far greater security.

Virginia has reason to take the Shelbyville riot to heart. We shall shortly have in this State the trial of a Negro charged with a revolting crime near Clifton Forge. He has been granted a change of venue to an adjoining county and will therefore stand trial in Fincastle, a town of only a few hundred inhabitants, within easy reach of those who, immediately after the crime, manifested their feeling by burning down his home. Every official in Virginia who has any responsibility in this case should realize from the Shelbyville tragedies the dangers involved in such a decision.

Chattanooga, Tenn.
TIMES
DEC 24 1934

The Shelbyville Lynching

(New York Times.)

All the more deplorable and discouraging must appear the latest attempt to lynch a prisoner for coming so soon after President Roosevelt's appeal to the nation to rally every energy against the prevalence of crime. Bar associations, together with various committees and agencies formed to deal with the subject, have at the same time appealed to the American people to start a "revolt" against crime in the United States. What they seem to have had chiefly in mind is banditry, along with kidnaping and racketeering attended by murderous violence. They were thinking mainly of our bad reputation for tolerating the gunman and the thug. But behind all these criminal activities there lies the spirit of lawlessness in general. Even ordinarily respectable citizens seem at times to catch the madness of

trying to take the law into their own hands. This appears to have been the roots of the mischief in the case of members of the mob in the Tennessee town. There is no need to dwell upon the repulsive details of the affair. Nor is there fit occasion to hold up these rioters as sinners above all that inhabit this land. The thing might have happened anywhere, in any state, south or north. It is only one more example of what has become a national shame and curse.

Perhaps the rioters were led on by the belief that it was perfectly safe for them to demand that the sheriff turn over to them a man in jail whom they were resolved to execute. Too often it has happened in various parts of the country that a mob in such cases finds it easy to have its way. Only a feeble pretense is made of really protecting a criminal already in the hands of justice. Protests and appeals to the ringleaders to let the law have its course are made, but too often the mob feels that all this can be brushed aside as of no account.

They think of themselves as representing popular sentiment, and scout the idea that the authorities will resolutely withstand them by the use of force. At Shelbyville this process was reversed. The prisoner was not delivered up, but was got out of town by a ruse, while the desperate attacks of the rioters were met by militiamen who, in self-defense, killed two members of the mob.

This should have a deterrent effect in other places where the mob spirit is apt to be roused. The conviction will spread that it is not a mere holiday affair to march upon a jail and demand that a certain prisoner, or prisoners, be turned over to the rioters to wreak their will. If force is to be met by force, the story will seem to be different. The authorities are under a sworn duty to protect men caught in the net of the law, and, if they are to do it at all, ought to use the utmost vigor that may be necessary. The governor of Tennessee acted upon the assumption that he could not allow the peace and dignity of the state to be affronted by a mob outbreak, and at once ordered sufficient troops to the scene to assure law and order and to disperse the rioters. Many of the latter are reported to have fled from the scene when they found that violence was not to be wholly on their side.

So there may come something good out of this evil thing. Men of anti-social instincts and unbridled passions may be partly restrained. The officials set for the enforcement of the law may acquire a new determination to defy and resist mob demands. But we shall not put an end to this national reproach until, by education, by political action, by using means to secure swifter and more equal justice, we have done much more than we have to extirpate and punish with due severity all forms of lawlessness.

4521

REENSBORO, N. C.
NEWS

DEC 21 1934

BASIC INVOLVEMENTS.

The fatal clash between Tennessee national guardsmen and a charging mob at Shelbyville, leaving a casualty list of 10 or more and the smouldering ruins of what had a short time before been the Bedford county courthouse, is lamentable, extremely lamentable, but on the basis of reports was inevitable unless the soldiers had yielded the guardianship with which they were intrusted to mobbery.

It is in the dispatches that every effort was made to win the advancing mobsters by reason. A national guard officer attempted to address them before the fatal charge. The soldiery, pressed at close quarters, used tear gas and bayonets and then retreated to the interior of the courthouse where the negro whom they were charged with protecting had been on trial. When the mob charged this structure, using pistols, clubs and firebrands, if press reports are to be relied upon, and apparently more bent upon assaulting the troops than getting their prisoner, who had already been spirited away, there was nothing left for the guardsmen to do but to defend themselves and the building which they occupied.

Even then, more than self-defense was involved; a courthouse has a certain symbolism. Called out in the first instance to protect a negro prisoner, charged with assault, the presence of troops was intended for infinitely more. They represented law and orderly processes. What, in the final analysis, is more worth fighting for than preservation of those forces which stand for the right of trial by jury, for maintenance of the fundamental tenet that a defendant, who may be any of us tomorrow, is innocent until proved otherwise, that no man is to be judged, much less condemned to death, until he has his day in court? If the troops had promptly withdrawn, where would that principle and the forces which maintain it have been? Incidentally, the needlessness of lynching, if punishment is its major motive, is ever borne in

If a defendant, particularly a negro is guilty of the offense which generally precipitates lynchings, who is there in the south to say that he stands a chance of escaping the maximum penalty under the law?

Rather the burning of the Shelbyville courthouse, after both the suspect and the troops had departed, emphasizes the wantonness upon which mobs thrive.

Shelbyville, Tenn. Times
December 27. 1934

London, England, Calls Shelbyville Over Telephone

Operator Girls Display Heroism While Town Was in Distress From Flame and Shot.

By O. C. WALKER

The writer has had thirty-four years with the telephone Company. During this time many disasters, storms, floods, mobs, fires, strikes, have come under his observation, but never have I witnessed such a condition as existed during the days of December 19th to 21, 1934. The unfortunate affair brought about abnormal conditions in the telephone work. I am just giving a few of the high points for you to get an idea of what we were up against.

Immediately following the outbreak of the trouble, we had to call in several extra operators. We can only use seven at one time on the switchboard, but we had to have two extras to relieve the others as they became exhausted. One girl gave her full time to long distance and one divided her time on long distance and helping the local forces. During this time every connection on the board was up and people ringing which made it necessary to have the extra girls to help keep in touch with those unanswered. Very little time was lost and hardly any one neglected. This kept up until about 10:30 and these girls who were on before supper time were that loyal and interested in serving the public as to go without food until it was possible to serve without undue delay. I feel that these girls showed a heroic spirit due to the fact that they were near enough to the court house when the shooting took place to have stray shots hit the window of the office and when the court house was blazing at the highest point the windows of the office were so hot you could feel the heat inside, yet they constantly held their position at the switchboard. It was a trying time on them and while some calls of necessity were delayed. I have not had a single complaint on the service, but to the contrary, we had newspaper reporters here from three leading state papers who said it was just wonderful service. Business men told the writer that they wanted to compliment the service, that with one or two exceptions the service was perfect, and they wanted me to know they appreciated the work of the telephone employees. The plant men had to do some repair work to doctor's telephones after night where the cable was shot to restore night service.

London, England, called the police headquarters and Sam Landers answered. Not being able to understand, he told Judge Smith it was a foreigner of some kind. Judge took the receiver and they wanted to know if the police station was closed by the mob. They were advised they were paroling the streets then. They wanted to know if the police had done any shooting and they were told no. Neither Sam nor Judge Smith knew they were talking to the Associated Press of London, England, until later. Calls were received from California, New York, Washington and other places, Judge Smith advises me.

The writer feels that the telephone users were all showing a fine spirit of co-operation and made it possible for these girls to render service in a satisfactory manner as has been expressed by a large number of leading business men and citizens to him in person during the past few days.

Chattanooga, Tenn., Times
December [illegible], 1934
22

Old-Timer Recalls Man's Lynching By Mob at Shelbyville Years Ago

Shelbyville's attempt to lynch a Negro this week recalls a successful lynching there back between 1889 and 1892 when a white man was hanged by a mob on the Shelbyville square, C. D. Hewlett, Roanoke (Va.) newspaper man, wrote a Chattanoogan yesterday.

Mr. Hewlett, former telegraph operator at The Chattanooga Times, recalled in his letter how the young man, charged with killing his wife, was strung up to a tree on the lawn in front of the same courthouse which was burned by a mob Wednesday night. Thus, he wrote, Shelbyville has a past record for lynching.

"There was a heavenwood tree near the tree on which the man was hanged," he wrote. "At the trial of alleged participants in the mob, not a man was found (and there were old men who passed there every day) who would swear whether the tree was inside or outside the yard.

"A man was hanged for the murder of his wife who turned him and his father up for horse stealing. The son was dead before he was lifted from the ground. I was there—I could have touched the body and there was not even a quiver of a muscle after he was hoisted. Then they started to string up the 200-pound father, but the mayor, a hotel keeper named Hight, snipped the rope with his pocket knife and the crowd yelled 'run.'

"The man recovered from the heap in which he had fallen and made a brave effort to comply, but just outside the courthouse yard he collapsed and had to be carried back to the jail. No other move was made to lynch him.

"I forget the year, but it was between 1889 and 1892."

Horse stealing in those days was a serious offense and offenders were dealt with severely whenever found guilty. In the frontier days a horse thief was considered as great an enemy of society as assaulters, murderers and robbers.

The attempt to lynch E. K. Harris, the Negro, last Wednesday was not the first made. On the night of Nov. 19 after Harris had attacked the white girl that afternoon, a mob formed in the Fall Creek community about six miles from Shelbyville and made an effort to lynch him. He was whisked away to the Nashville jail, however, before the mob could take him.

Winston Salem, N. C.
JOURNAL

DEC 21 1934

Mob Violence in Tennessee

The bloody incidents at Shelbyville, Tenn., where a drink-crazed mob defied three companies of National Guardsmen in a futile effort to wrest a Negro from officers at the courthouse and lynch him, are deplorable in the extreme.

Yet the Shelbyville officers and the state officials are deserving of commendation in that they refused to compromise the dignity and integrity of the law. They prevented a lynching, even if it did become necessary to resort to the rifle and the bayonet, and despite the fact that the mob burned the courthouse.

It may require the rifle and the bayonet in quite a few instances yet before Southern mobs learn that the intelligent citizenry of the South wills for the law and its agencies of enforcement to stand supreme—that it intends to provide for every citizen of whatever color the right of trial by jury. If the protection of the inherent rights of citizens calls for the bayonet, then the bayonet let it be.

But another thought strikes us here. North Carolina has had few mobs in recent years. Lynchings and attempts to lynch have been few. And in this connection memory does not recall when the press services have referred to a Tar Heel tragedy of this sort being caused by a "drink-crazed" mob. Last year Tennessee voted to repeal the Eighteenth Amendment. We wonder if repeal played a part in the influencing of "drink-crazed" men to court almost certain death in defiance of three companies of militia. Sober mobs usually go home when the boys in khaki arrive on the scene.

Lynchings-1934
Discussions.

White Press, Southern.

4522

Nashville, Tenn. Banner
December 20, 1934

THIS PICTURE TAKEN AT PERIL OF LIFE

Two of the troop trucks (one in background) set afire by the Shelbyville mob were photographed while they were blazing by John Hood, staff photographer of THE BANNER, who a few minutes later was attacked by members of the mob who attempted to smash the camera and photographic plates. The photographer and Tom Stewart, staff correspondent for THE BANNER, managed to escape the maddened group after being roughly handled. The pictures were rushed to Nashville by the photographer. It was in the trucks shown in the picture that the guardsmen went to Shelbyville. Note the blaze just to the right of the boy.

Spartanburg, S. C., Herald
December 21, 1934

Tennessee's Example

Many Americans may have known little of the town of Shelbyville, Tennessee, before Thursday morning when press dispatches appeared in almost every daily newspaper telling of an attempted lynching in which a mob three times was driven back by national guardsmen who used fixed bayonets, guns and tear gas. The defendant, a negro on trial for criminal assault, was taken from the courthouse disguised as a soldier and was spirited away to a place of safety. The mob, infuriated because it had been denied the privilege of committing a murder and because of the death of several of its members and the wounding of a score of others, burned the courthouse.

Today the whole country knows of Shelbyville. The lynching that was to have taken place turned out to be what the mob had least expected. Instead of an exhibition of lawlessness it was one of maintenance of law and order. The members of the mob have learned a lesson in government. The state of Tennessee taught the lesson and set an example to other states. Had Florida recently acted as quickly in a similar crisis a disgraceful and fiendish mob murder would have been prevented.

Charlotte, N. C. Observer
December 23, 1934

Soldiers of Tennessee gave the would-be ynchers in Shelbyville the sort of answer o their challenge which they deserve. Ordered to bring their rifles into play ather than allow the mob to wreak its vengeance, these National Guardsmen were forced to shoot and to kill. There is but one answer to those who insist upon having their way as against law and order and government—that is, if these are to be perpetuated.

Birmingham, Ala., News
December 24, 1934

The Shelbyville Lynching

All the more deplorable and discouraging must appear the latest attempt to lynch a prisoner for coming so soon after President Roosevelt's appeal to the nation to rally every energy against the prevalence of crime. Bar associations, together with various committees and agencies formed to deal with the subject have at the same time appealed to the American people to start a "revolt" against crime in the United States. What they seem to have had chiefly in mind is banditry, along with kidnaping and racketeering attended by murderous violence. They were thinking mainly of our bad reputation for tolerating the gunman and the thug. But behind all these criminal activities there lies the spirit of lawlessness in general. Even ordinarily respectable citizens seem at times to catch the madness of trying to take the law into their own hands. This appears to have been the roots of the mischief in the case of members of the mob in the Tennessee town. There is no need to dwell upon the repulsive details of the affair. Nor is there fit occasion to hold up these rioters as sinners above all that inhabit this land. The thing might have happened anywhere, in any state, South or North. It is only one more example of what has become a national shame and curse.

Perhaps the rioters were led on by the belief that it was perfectly safe for them to demand that the sheriff turn over to them a man in jail whom they were resolved to execute. Too often it has happened in various parts of the country that a mob in such cases finds it easy to have its way. Only a feeble pretense is made of really protecting a criminal already in the hands of justice. Protests and appeals to the ringleaders to let the law have its course are made, but too often the mob feels that all this can be brushed aside as of no account. They think of themselves as representing popular sentiment, and scout the idea that the authorities will resolutely withstand them by the use of force. At Shelbyville this process was reversed. The prisoner was not delivered up, but was got out of town by a ruse, while the desperate attacks of the rioters were met by militiamen who, in self-defense, killed two of the members of the mob.

This should have a deterrent effect in other places where the mob spirit is apt to be roused. The conviction will spread that it is not a mere holiday affair to march upon a jail and demand that a certain prisoner, or prisoners, be turned over to the rioters to wreak their will. If force is to be met by force, the story will seem to be different. The authorities are under a sworn duty to protect men caught in the net of the law, and, if they are to do it at all, ought to use the utmost vigor that may be necessary. The governor of Tennessee acted upon the assumption that he could not allow the peace and dignity of the state to be affronted by a mob outbreak, and at once ordered sufficient troops to the scene to assure law and order and to disperse the rioters. Many of the latter are reported to have fled from the scene when they found that violence was not to be wholly on their side.

So there may come something good out of this evil thing. Men of anti-social instincts and unbridled passions may be partly restrained. The officials set for the enforcement of the law may acquire a new determination to defy and resist mob demands. But we shall not put an end to this national reproach until, by education, by political action, by using means to secure swifter and more equal justice, we have done much more than we have to extirpate and punish with due severity all forms of lawlessness.—New York Times.

BIRMINGHAM, ALA.
NEWS
DEC 24 1934

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LYNCHBURG, VA.
NEWS
DEC 23 1934

DEALING WITH LYNCHERS

Four would-be lynchers are dead in Tennessee. They were shot by Tennessee national guardsmen sent to Shelbyville to protect a Negro on trial on the charge of attacking a white girl.

After the mob had been repulsed and the Negro had been spirited away, the disorder did not cease. The mob burned down the court house to show its contempt of law and of order and of the rule of justice. But the Negro was not lynched and four mobsmen paid with their lives for their attempt to over ride the orderly processes of law in dealing with accused persons.

The lesson was one that should be taken to heart by authorities everywhere. When there is determination to prevent a lynching a lynching can be prevented. When the life of a rioter is not accounted as anything in comparison with the life of law and of civilization there will be no lynching. Your mob doesn't like cold steel. It doesn't like bullets. And when it is known that cold steel and bullets and not an orgy of murder, the smell of powder and not the smell of burning flesh, is to be the portion of those who set out to lynch the law of the land, those thirsting for blood are not going to set out. They are going to stay at home and let the law take its course.

Four members of a Tennessee mob are "dead on the field of dishonor." The state of Tennessee and the decent citizens of it gain honor by reason of the decisiveness with which they met a crisis, by the determination with which it set about the task of preserving themselves from dishonor. The accused Negro will be tried and dealt with according to his deserts. Those who sought to blacken the name of their state have already been dealt with.

BIRMINGHAM, ALA.
POST
DEC 22 1934

Courageous Officials

Sheriff Gant did his duty when he tried to calm the mob at Shelbyville, Tenn.

Judge Coleman did his duty by declaring a mistrial in the case of E. K. Harris, the Negro, when the mob surrounded the courthouse. The mob set fire to the courthouse.

The Tennessee National Guard did its duty, training its guns upon the charging mob and carrying the prisoner away to safety. The mob overturned and burned the guard's motor trucks.

Shelbyville police did their duty, risking their lives to save the city hall from the torch.

The firemen did their duty, fighting the courthouse flames. The mob cut the fire hose.

Governor McAlister did his duty by sending more troops to restore law and order in Shelbyville.

It now remains for Shelbyville prosecutors to punish the vandals and round out a perfect score of official courage in Tennessee—in this one case.

Back of and largely responsible for the bloody Wednesday in Shelbyville were three successful lynchings in Tennessee in the last 18 months. Two white men and one Negro were the victims and the latter was lynched in Bedford County, of which Shelbyville is the county seat. He was lynched after a grand jury had refused to indict him. In those three lynchings, Tennessee officers did not do their duty, and because they failed mob spirit spread in the state.

But on Wednesday, Tennessee authorities demonstrated how a mob should be handled. A few more such salutary performances by local authorities might end cowardly lynchings in this country.

Lynchings-1934
Discussions

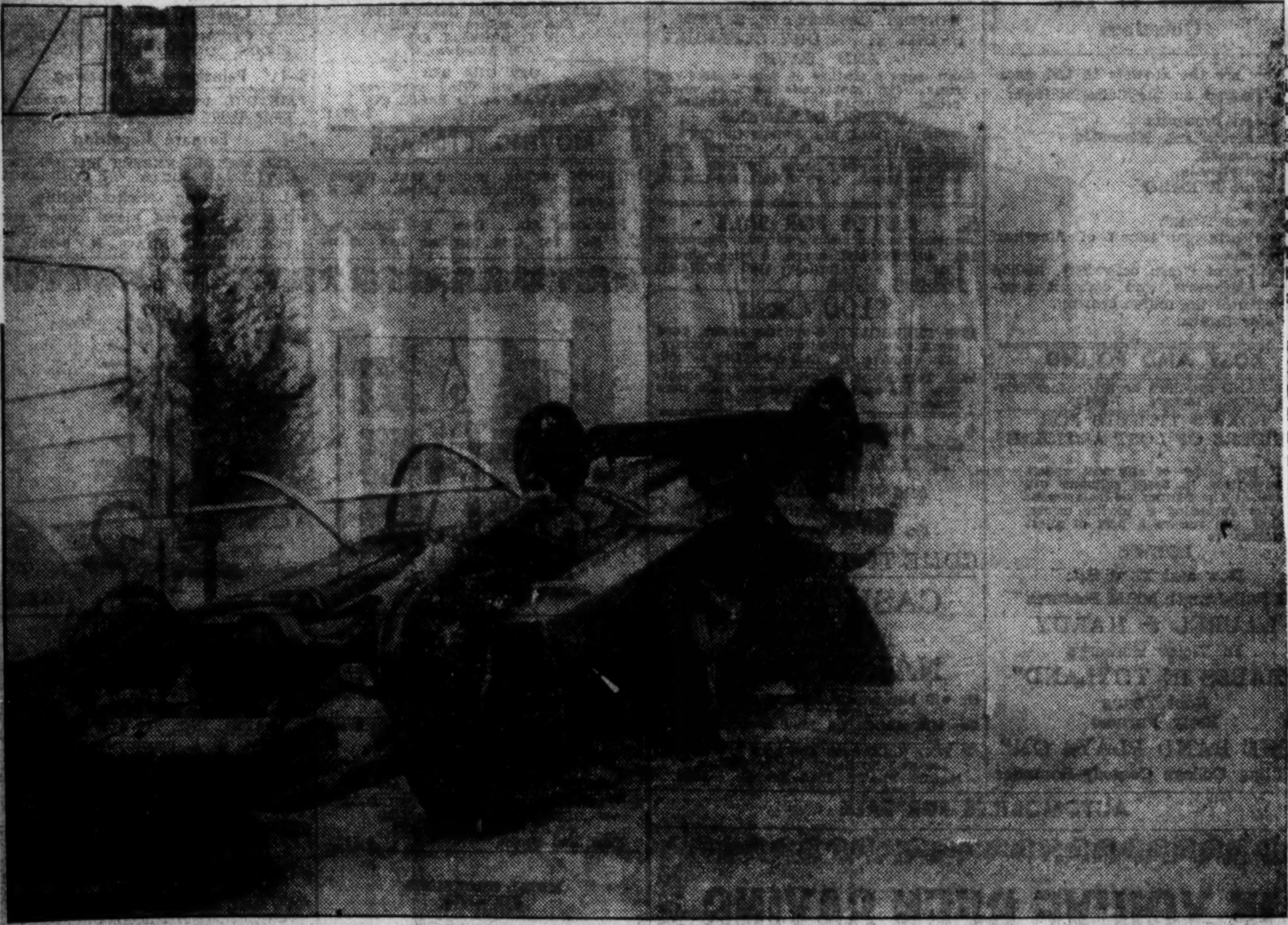
White Press, Southern.

4523

4523

Nashville, Tenn. Banner
December 20, 1934

Ruins of Bedford Courthouse and Guard Truck Stand As Gaunt Monuments to Mob Hysteria, Death and Destruction



Shelbyville awoke this morning to look upon these gaunt, smouldering monuments to mob hysteria, death and destruction. The historic and beautiful Courthouse was set on fire at 7:30 p. m. Wednesday after a Negro, charged with criminal assault, had been spirited away by National Guard troops. In the foreground is the skeleton of National Guard truck that was turned over and burned by the rioters.

LITTLE ROCK, ARK.
GAZETTE

DEC 21 1934

THAT'S WHAT A MOB IS.

When they are righteously incensed by a terrible crime many people are inclined to condone a lynching as the illegal but not unjust execution of a guilty wretch. But when a mob starts there is no telling where it will end.

Members of the mob at the fine old town of Shelbyville, Tenn., burned their own courthouse after a Negro prisoner they sought to lynch had been spirited away. That shows what a mob is.

Those people were not punishing the accused Negro when they did that. They might have done so by burning his property, if he had any. What they did was to vent their insensate fury on themselves. Everybody in Bedford county will be punished by being taxed for funds to build a new courthouse.

There is something in the atmosphere of mob action that easily sets loose wild and unrestrained passion. A mob may lash itself to almost any extreme of wanton destructiveness and violence before the mass emotion of its members subsides.

CHARLOTTE, N. C.
NEWS

DEC 20 1934

Bestiality in Tennessee.

Bayonets and rifles was the state of Tennessee's challenge yesterday to a mob which lusted for the blood of a Negro accused of a horrible crime. Two dead, two about to die and five others wounded in varying degree was the result of its acceptance by the mob.

It was bad business, as bad a piece of business as the newspapers have chronicled in a long, long time. Despite the miserable alternatives, Tennessee's choice of law and order as against the countenancing of lynching does not lessen the dreadfulness of the event.

The state has courageously and to its everlasting credit resisted its enemies, but it is not a comforting occasion under any circumstance when men turn into wild beast and must kill or be killed.

Winston Salem, N. C.
SENTINEL
DEC 22 1934

Florida Justice

A few weeks ago a mob in a Florida community gave ample warning to officers that it intended to take a Negro from the town jail, carry him into a thicket and apply the hemp to his neck. After giving the warning, the mob proceeded to carry out its threat while the "law" stood by, apparently impotent. The Governor's proffer of troops was not acted upon until after the lynching had taken place.

But here is a different brand of Florida justice. On December 9, a physician was kidnaped by four men and forced to sign a check for $16,000. On December 19, ten days later, the four kidnapers were sentenced to prison for life.

In the one case the forces of the law appear to be as weak and limber as a dish cloth. In the other the law is "up and at 'em" with firm and rapid-fire efficiency. Such paradoxes in law enforcement are common throughout the country.

When and if a uniform and equitable system of dealing with crime is set-up in this country, the law will eventually become as efficient in preventing lynchings as it is in running kidnapers and extortioners to earth.

Birmingham, Ala., News
December 23, 1934

The Important Lesson From The Shelbyville Affair

The horrible events at Shelbyville, Tenn., no doubt contain several lessons, but the one which is the most important of all, just as it is the most obvious, is this: mob violence, once it is let loose, knows no bounds, and is the very antithesis, not merely of law and order, but of everything we hold dear in civilization; therefore society must strive, not simply to hold mobs in check by the stern resistance of the law's arm when they do arise, though that is vitally important and necessary, but above all to eradicate the mob spirit itself.

That is not a new lesson, to be sure. But the Shelbyville affair illustrates it more forcefully than any other instance of mob action in a long time. The Tennessee mob went to the greatest extreme. Not only did it defy the law and attempt by force to defeat it; it went so far as to burn down the symbol of the law and of justice—the symbol, it might even be said, of civilization itself—the courthouse. There is nothing else that symbolizes so completely the essence of all that mankind have striven for in upbuilding civilization as the temple of justice. Yet the Shelbyville mob in its fury burned down the courthouse.

The mob [illegible] prevented from carrying out the lynching upon which it was bent—though at a frightful cost; four men are dead as a consequence. That is tragedy of the grimmest sort and it is utterly deplorable. But the state troops could not have done otherwise than perform their duty; and it must be borne in mind that the mob was the aggressor.

This affair could be duplicated every time a mob gathers. Mobs do not always go so far as this one did; but every mob holds as much potential danger and destruction. It is only by chance or circumstance that mobs do not always go to such extremes.

The lesson of Shelbyville is simply that it is best to let the law take its course. When all men realize that, the mob spirit will disappear.

MEMPHIS, TENN.
[redacted] APPEAL
Commercial
DEC 22 1934

Humiliating Tragedy

Nothing could be more erroneous than to assume that the killing of four and the wounding of seven Bedford County citizens by the state militia at Shelbyville was an inspiring example of upholding the majesty of the law of Tennessee.

There was nothing inspiring about it.

It was pitiful and humiliating.

The spectacle of the dead and wounded, and the sight of the ashes of the courthouse, burned by outraged neighbors of the victims, bear witness to a great tragedy that followed closely in the footsteps of stupidity.

There was no excuse for shooting and bayoneting. Troops were requested by local authorities to protect a negro on trial for assaulting a 14-year-old schoolgirl. They were sent to calm the natural indignation of her relatives and neighbors, not to kill them.

Moreover, if troops were to be sent, the authorities should have sent enough adequately to handle the case, not a mere handful.

A day spent in argument over an application for a change of venue added fuel to the flame of impatient citizens. The announcement that a mistrial had been entered, with the prospect of more delay, and news that the culprit had been spirited away, brought to a climax a feeling that was already at fever heat.

The crime was committed on Nov. 14. Court should have been convened and the accused given an immediate trial. Assuming that he was guilty, he should have been executed. Then it would have been proper to talk about the majesty of the law.

There are crimes for which punishment must be swift and certain

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Crossville, Tenn. Chronicle
December 27, 1934

Court House Burned and Three Dead From Riot at Shelbyville

Wednesday of last week, a riot broke out at Shelbyville, which resulted in the State Guard being called out and two people were killed and several others wounded while they were attempting to mob a negro—E. K. Harris. The negro was charged with having assaulted a 14-year old white girl some weeks ago.

The negro was dressed in the uniform of a guardsman, with a gas mask and spirited away to Nashville where he was securely locked in a jail cell.

When the angry mob found the negro had been taken away the court house was stormed and set on fire. The fire department was not permitted to fight the fire and the $150,000 court house that had been built for almost 100 years was totally destroyed and only the blackened ruins of the walls remain. The mob also overturned and burned two or three government trucks that had been used to bring the State Guardsmen thers to protect the negro.

The court house is said to have carried $50,000 insurance, but if the policy is the usual straight fire policy, there cannot be anything collected for such policies carry a special clause against such acts of violence and war.

Guardsmen to the number of 500 were rushed to the scene on the order of Governor McAlister and no further injury resulted. Since the riot one other wounded person has died making the total number of deaths three.

The daily press over the state has been most severe in denouncing the riot and have praised the State Guards for standing up to their duty.

GREENVILLE, S. C.
NEWS
DEC 21 1934

BLIND, DESTRUCTIVE FURY

No more startling illustration of the blindly destructive forces that are let loose by the spirit of mob violence has been afforded in this country in recent years than that provided by the actions of a mob at Shelbyville, Tennessee, Wednesday.

After the negro who was sought by the mob had been removed from the court house by troops, the infuriated citizens though knowing that the negro had been saved from their clutches, gave evidence of complete subjection to the spirit of blind fury by burning down the court house, and thus inflicting loss upon themselves and all other taxpayers of above $100,000.

That citizens could do such a thing can be explained only by the fact that they had permitted themselves to become obsessed with the passion for unlawful destruction of life and property under the provocation of a horrible crime. Yet that is the natural psychological sequence of events when citizens yield to the temptation to take the law into their own hands. The spirit is the absolute antithesis of that portrayed in the execution of sentence under the solemn majesty of the law in accordance with the decrees of the courts. If the forces of civilization amount to anything at all, they should deter the exhibition of blind, destructive passion by the substitution of calmer and more intelligent processes of conducting human affairs. Such an affair as that which occurred in Shelbyville is a disgrace to modern civilization.

Governor McAlister of Tennessee is to be warmly commended upon his prompt and courageous action in preventing a lynching in this instance and preserving the supremacy of the forces of law and the established processes of justice.

White Press, Southern

4524

Lynchings-1934
Discussion.

Chattanooga, Tenn.
NEWS

DEC 20 1934

Shelbyville's Bloody Day

TURN back the vision a hundred and twenty years, and a blockhouse was burned in Shelbyville yesterday.

For a parallel to the three assaults on the courthouse by the mob, the bloodshed, the defense of the law by the militia, the use of the torch and the smoldering ruins of the Hall of Justice, we go back to the early days of Tennessee.

Except for the matter of dress, the color of skin, and the modern surroundings, the shocking tragedy might have occurred in the period when the pioneers and the Indians were at death grips.

The emotional background was identical.

But above the tragedy, there is the courageous action of a Governor who sought to prevent a lynching, and the devotion to duty of militia who had no choice but to repel a mob with bullets when justice itself was outraged. All thinking people will praise Governor McAlister, and the disgrace to Tennessee resulting from the mob's action will be tempered throughout the world by the example of a Southern Governor of a Southern State standing for law and justice, even to the very end.

Several people dead, many wounded, a town filled with gas, a $150,000 courthouse burned to the ground—all of this saturnalia of violence because a Negro was brought into the courtroom to face a probable death sentence for having attacked a schoolgirl a month ago.

The world can understand the mob spirit behind the usual lynching, as much as the world may deplore mob action.

But the world cannot understand why a mob would try to prevent an alleged Negro rapist from being made to answer, before the bar of justice, for his alleged crime, despite the probability that in a brief while the sentence of death might be passed upon him in a legal trial.

Last November 19, the young girl was temporarily excused from her classes in her school at Stump Valley, near Shelbyville. She was allegedly attacked in some bushes near the schoolyard. The Negro was arrested that night. Immediately a mob formed, and the Negro was rushed to Murfreesboro, fifty miles away. The mob from Shelbyville started toward Murfreesboro, and the Negro was taken to Nashville.

A month elapsed, and yesterday the Negro was taken to Shelbyville to stand trial.

Warned of danger, the Governor supplied militia to preserve order and to assure an orderly trial.

Throughout the month, no doubt, the horror of the attack upon the schoolgirl preyed upon the minds of her relatives. This is but natural.

But behind the forming of the mob in Shelbyville yesterday also were some thwarted, reckless, moronic men thirsting for leadership. These are the men who foment lynchings. It is easy for them to mobilize the sheep minds in the community, the rioting child-minds which will join in any mass attack or in any mass adventure, and which anticipate no harm to themselves in the mob's action.

The mob stormed the courthouse and was repulsed with tear gas. Again they stormed, and again they were repulsed. A third time they brandished guns and other weapons and pushed to the courthouse steps.

The troops, seeing that the very halls of justice were invaded, that a trial which they had pledged to safeguard was being violated, that justice itself, not a whimpering Negro, was being outraged, opened fire upon the mob.

Bloodshed, dead, wounded, terrorized, scampering mobsters—Shelbyville's Red Wednesday had reached its climax.

The Negro, disguised in a soldier's uniform and wearing a gas mask, was spirited away to Nashville. The judge declared a mistrial. The mob came back, burned its own $150,000 courthouse to the ground, destroyed army trucks left there by the militia.

All it had accomplished was the death of some of its own members, the destruction of a famous old building, the delay in meting out justice to the alleged Negro rapist, the blackening of Tennessee's already blackened name throughout the world. But was that all the mob accomplished? No. It prevented a Negro, accused of a horrible crime, from being made to answer before the bar of justice. It protected the hated object of its own fury.

Who was to blame for the het results of death and destruction in Shelbyville?

Not the officers who sent the Negro away from Shelbyville a month ago. Not the Murfreesboro officers who sent him on to Nashville. Not the judge who sat in the Shelbyville court, ready to conduct a lawful trial for one accused of an awful crime. Not the militia, who were pledged to do their duty and who sought to save the mob from itself. Not Governor McAlister who sought to prevent another blot on Tennessee's name by furnishing militia to preserve order.

Not, perhaps, altogether to blame were the relatives of the outraged little girl. There are some passions, on some occasions, which the human heart is not strong enough to control.

The ringleaders of the mob, those blustering, desperate, ignorant souls which stir violence to satisfy their own lust for a brief moment of leadership—these were to blame. Those ignorant, sheep-like followers of those moronic leaders—they were to blame.

Governor McAlister has ordered more troops to Shelbyville. The entire State applauds his action in upholding constituted authority in this crisis. Further use of force may not be necessary, the Governor thinks, but he declares the guardsmen "will use it if necessary."

In the courtroom, while all the fantastic tragedy was being enacted outside, sat a judge and a prisoner and a crowd of spectators.

Judge Coleman, perhaps, acted wisely in declaring a mistrial. He at least maintained order in the courtroom.

"I told the crowd that it was a Christmas celebration and not to get excited," he said.

A Christmas celebration! The ghastly irony of it!

ROCKY MOUNT, N. C.
TELEGRAM

DEC 21 1934

Writes Its Own Ticket

The Shelbyville, Tenn., mob that burned a court house when members failed to take a Negro prisoner from National guardsmen doubtless regrets today that the structure valued at $150,000 has been destroyed. Certainly, when commissioners increase the tax rate of the county to meet the costs of rebuilding this hall of justice, the futility of this expression of anger will be duly impressed upon citizens. The guards, by a ruse, managed to save the life of the Negro prisoner—a thoroughly commendable act—although in protecting him from the mob two men were slain and a dozen or more injured by gunfire. The man had been legally indicted and was on trial for a brutal crime; however, he had not been proved guilty and until he was convicted by a jury, neither the state nor enraged citizens of this Tennessee village had any right or reason to seek his life.

Today the village is peaceful. Special detachments of guards have been dispatched to this scene of violence by Governor McAlister. All outward indications are that peace will prevail but if the worst happens, the guard is sufficiently strong to prevent further serious disorders.

Such a demonstration as this is immediately unpleasant, a terrible travesty on the allegiance of a people to the processes of law and order. Had the Negro been unguarded, he would have been dragged from the courthouse and slaughtered by the same group that, denied the privilege of a lynching, turned in fury on a courthouse and burned it to the ground.

As we think of the disorders in Shelbyville, Tennessee, it becomes increasingly difficult to become angry because Chinese bandits, infuriated, slew two American missionaries. The deaths of those hapless people was, indeed, a most deplorable event, but one is almost led to the conclusion that the Chinese in dealing with Americans with whom they were angered, proceeded to dispose of them in about the same manner that Americans, infuriated with a Negro, sought to dispose of a man charged with a heinous crime. In short the Chinese bandits were aping a custom of Americans.

So long as the people of Shelbyville confine their depredations to the destruction of a court house they must pay to have rebuilt, we shall not offer a protest. They have some grounds for writing their own ticket. But when they start killing, our view is that the Governor acted properly in dispatching troops to the scene.

COLUMBIA, S. C.
RECORD
DEC 24 1934

BURN THE COURT HOUSES.

There is a formula for a lynching, a pattern to which all standard lynchings conform.

It isn't a pleasant pattern, made up of gruesome mutilations and barbaric tortures, of insane rage and only that substitute for cowardice that is the courage of a crowd, of howls and curses. Fingers and toes are cut off and bodies either soaked in gasoline and burned or dragged behind automobiles through the streets where women and children may see and remember what no man, much less a woman or child ought to be given the opportunity to know or recollect. And while 50 or 100 men may compose the active mob there are always hundreds sometimes thousands more, many of these women and children, to watch them and now and then to encourage them as a 18-year-old girl did when lynching came to Marion, Ind. Standing on the top of a nearby automobile she screamed, "Hang that nigger!" to the mob leaders who had bungled the first attempt at stringing up one of their two victims and then fainted when finally they carried out her injunction. And there must be generally, if not always, either because of a lack of interest or through error some failure on the part of the law enforcement authorities to do even what they might have done to prevent the lynching. It may amount to actual surrender on the part of sheriff to the mob plans as at Maryville, Mo., where the sheriff, even though the proposed lynching had been openly advertised, refused to accede to the suggestion that the militia be called out, and then when the case was called for trial drove his car, containing the negro who was to be lynched, straight into the waiting mob which promptly seized him.

The Shelbyville mob that didn't get its intended victim the other day departed somewhat from the standard pattern. There was first its failure, due to the fact that the national guardsmen, called out in time, were able with bayonets and guns to defeat the would-be lynchers in their purpose. The militia was forced to shoot—the Shelbyville mob was made up of men of more courage than usually take part in lynchings but even so it might have attempted nothing had it been the custom of officers and militiamen to shoot to kill to protect prisoners—and two men were killed and a score wounded before the three attacks launched by the rioters against the court house were repulsed and the 22-year-old negro prisoner, a mistrial having been declared, was spirited away to safety. It was a demonstration of what determined resistance to mob violence can accomplish.

With their would-be victim gone and safe and with the militia encamped outside the town, the rioters proceeded to improve upon the lynching formula and so they set fire to the court house which was destroyed when members of the mob, armed with pistols, stood guard over fireplugs to hamper firemen in their efforts to extinguish the blaze. The next morning the court house was a blackened brick shell and Shelbyville was in charge of 500 national guardsmen ordered out by the governor. All was quiet and a little shame-faced.

Once before, it will be remembered, a lynching mob burned a court house. This was in 1930 at Sherman, Tex., and that time of course the mob got its victim who had been left in the court house, shut up in 40-foot square steel and concrete fireproof vault. Given his choice of running for his life or staying in the vault, he had elected to stay. Hours later when the fire had died down the mob dynamited its way into the vault and there found the negro dead, apparently killed by the explosion rather than the fire. The national guard at Sherman chose not to shoot to kill.

There were complaints the next day that either the prisoner or the court house should have been saved and 14 people were indicted in the lynching and two were even tried. They were convicted and sentenced to two years' imprisonment which is two years more than Texas lynchers expect to serve.

And so the Sherman lynching didn't set a precedent. Mobs have not been burning court houses. And it is a pity .

Now Shelbyville offers anther demonstration and example; the mob should adopt it and add it to the standard lynching formula. A burning courthouse is an imposing sight and somewhat less nauseating than a burning man or body. And it is good symbol. The mob is a negation of all that the court house stands for and since lynchers are customarily not punished the last thing a community needs after a lynching as a court house; when a town or a county has a lynching it has demonstrated that it doesn't deserve a court house that its people do not want a court house.

In every lynching community there ought to be one burned court house. It makes clear things that were words cannot.

Columbia, S. C. Record
December 24, 1934

BURN THE COURT HOUSES.

There is a formula for a lynching, a pattern to which all standard lynchings conform.

It isn't a pleasant pattern, made up of gruesome mutilations and barbaric tortures, of insane rage and only that substitute for cowardice that is the courage of a crowd, of howls and curses. Fingers and toes are cut off and bodies either soaked in gasoline and burned or dragged behind automobiles through the streets where women and children may see and remember what no man, much less a woman or child ought to be given the opportunity to know or recollect. And while 50 or 100 men may compose the active mob there are always hundreds sometimes thousands more, many of these women and children, to watch them and now and then to encourage them as a 18-year-old girl did when lynching came to Marion, Ind. Standing on the top of a nearby automobile she screamed, "Hang that nigger!" to the mob leaders who had bungled the first attempt at stringing up one of their two victims and then fainted when finally they carried out her injunction. And there must be generally, if not always, either because of a lack of interest or through error some failure on the part of the law enforcement authorities to do even what they might have done to prevent the lynching. It may amount to actual surrender on the part of sheriff to the mob plans as at Maryville, Mo., where the sheriff, even though the proposed lynching had been openly advertised, refused to accede to the suggestion that the militia be called out, and then when the case was called for trial drove his car, containing the negro who was to be lynched, straight into the waiting mob which promptly seized him.

The Shelbyville mob that didn't get its intended victim the other day departed somewhat from the standard pattern. There was first its failure, due to the fact that the national guardsmen, called out in time, were able with bayonets and guns to defeat the would-be lynchers in their purpose. The militia was forced to shoot—the Shelbyville mob was made up of men of more courage than usually take part in lynchings but even so it might have attempted nothing had it been the custom of officers and militiamen to shoot to kill to protect prisoners—and two men were killed and a score wounded before the three attacks launched by the rioters against the court house were repulsed and the 22-year-old negro prisoner, a mistrial having been declared, was spirited away to safety. It was a demonstration of what determined resistance to mob violence can accomplish.

With their would-be victim gone and safe and with the militia encamped outside the town, the rioters proceeded to improve upon the lynching formula and so they set fire to the court house which was destroyed when members of the mob, armed with pistols, stood guard over fireplugs to hamper firemen in their efforts to extinguish the blaze. The next morning the court house was a blackened brick shell and Shelbyville was in charge of 500 national guardsmen ordered out by the governor. All was quiet and a little shame-faced.

Once before, it will be remembered, a lynching mob burned a court house. This was in 1930 at Sherman, Tex., and that time of course the mob got its victim who had been left in the court house shut up in 40-foot square steel and concrete fireproof vault. Given his choice of running for his life or staying in the vault, he had elected to stay. Hours later when the fire had died down the mob dynamited its way into the vault and there found the negro dead, apparently killed by the explosion rather than the fire. The national guard at Sherman

Lynchings - 1934
Discussions

White Press, Southern.

4525

TIMES
Kingsport Tenn.
DEC 21 1934

AN UNSPEAKABLE OUTRAGE

The murderous riot at Shelbyville Wednesday afternoon has cast a stigma of shame on the fair reputation of law and order of the state of Tennessee, and has demonstrated the outrageous lengths to which a maddened mob may go. The mob action of course was unjustified and without rhyme or reason. It was the work of hate crazed men who had been deprived of their reasoning powers by hatred, excitement, and that most dangerous element—mob psychology.

The circumstances underlying this outrage are now thoroughly known from one end of the state to the other. A negro, E. K. Harris, was charged with a criminal assault on a 14-year-old white girl, and was on trial at Shelbyville. Wednesday the presiding judge ordered a mistrial in the case and discharged the jury. The mob, which had been threatening throughout the day and in fact since the negro was arrested on November 19, now made an effort to take the prisoner with the purpose of dealing out lynch law. However, it was foiled in its attempt when Harris was spirited out of the court house in a soldier's uniform and was taken on to Nashville for safe keeping.

The mob soon learned of the ruse, and maddened by the manner in which they had been duped the mobsters proceeded to vent their rage on whatever came to hand. The beautiful and historic old Bedford county court house was sprinkled with gasoline and burned to the ground—a $150,000 loss. The entire business section of Shelbyville was threatened by flames. Firemen, attempting to extinguish the blaze or prevent its spreading, were threatened and hampered in every way possible, the fire hose were cut, and the water was turned off.

The mob then directed its wrath to four troop trucks of the national guardsmen. These trucks were overturned and destroyed by fire.

Nor did the mob devote all of its attention to the destruction of property. The innocent negro residents of Shelbyville were cursed, threatened, and jostled on the streets. The danger of a serious race riot flared up as threats were made that the entire negro section would be burned.

In the fighting between the members of the mob and the guardsmen two men were killed and a score or more were injured.

It is hard for law-abiding citizens to understand a spirit like that which possessed this mob and turned men into unreasonable brutes. What good could it do these men, most of whom were citizens and taxpayers of Tennessee, to ruthlessly destroy thousands of dollars worth of property? By what logic could they threaten or mistreat innocent negroes for the crime of one negro? If one white man should commit a terrible crime, would they argue that all of the white race should be abused and threatened? Do they think that the laws of the land, which brave men have died to establish, should be turned over to them, and the courts, which the taxpayers are paying millions of dollars every year to maintain, should be entrusted into their hands?

We do not know if this particular negro defendant is guilty or innocent. The members of the mob didn't know. But we have reason to presume that he will be given a fair and unprejudiced trial, and that if he is guilty he will go to the electric chair—a fitting punishment for the crime with which is charged. If he is innocent we cannot imagine anyone, no matter how bloodthirsty and depraved he may be, wanting an innocent man put to death. But surely the established court is the proper place to determine the man's guilt or innocence.

However, while we would not and could not condone the action of this mob, and while we urge that its leaders should be sought out and brought to justice, at the same time we are again brought face to face with our shortcomings. As we have pointed out so many times before, there is too much delay and uncertainty in our justice, there is too much red tape and technicality, too much time elapses between the commission of the crime and the infliction of the penalty therefor, and there are too many legal loopholes through which a criminal may escape. Finally, it was a mistake to put a soldier's uniform on a man charged with criminal assault on a little girl—it is a disrespect for the uniform, which should be held as too sacred to be devoted to a pur

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Commercial Appeal
Memphis, Tenn.

MR. FRASER IS ALL THAT IS LEFT OF CULTURE

To The Commercial Appeal:

I have always believed that the Reconstruction tyranny wiped out all but the last vestige of culture in the south.

The more I observe your pronouncements, spread out over the editorial page of The Commercial Appeal, the more I am convinced of the soundness of this view.

Take, for instance, your comments today on the Shelbyville mob.

Of course you cannot uphold mob rule directly, but you can indirectly.

You can, for example, praise the "character" of the members of the mob; you can also, by inference condemn the National Guardsmen who balked the rats who would kill and burn anyone accused without a trial; you can assume, as any superficial mind would, that the emotions of the mob were motivated by, and originated from, a simple desire to administer justice; you can—again by despicable inference—appeal from the defects of the law to the merits of the mob, but to intelligent Memphians' and literate citizens everywhere, Mr. Morris, it all only indicates that you are in a position of propaganda and power to which you have no right by either intelligence or ability. This fact, it is equally obvious, constitutes a greater disgrace to the south than even the transitory mob action at Shelbyville.

HUGH RUSSELL FRASER.

UNION, S. C
TIMES
DEC 21 1934

4525

Shelbyville, Tenn., has produced a new stunt in lawlessness. It burned down a $150,000 courthouse when thwarted in its effort to lynch a Negro prisoner. The prisoner had been spirited away. State militiamen slew two members of the mob and wounded two others. Fortunately for the state the courthouse was insured. But the loss will fall upon the insurance companies and ultimately passed on to the public. The Negro was charged with criminal assault upon a white girl, but since the judge while trying the case ordered a mistrial, there must be grave doubt of his guilt.

The tragedy reveals anew the danger of mob violence. It will be many a year before Shelbyville will be rid of the scars of the conflict.

Law and Lynching

By George Morris

Commercial Appeal

12-23-34

Memphis Tenn

There is one crime which, when perpetrated in the south, results inevitably in lynching. Either the people take the law into their own hands and avenge the crime or the law makes itself ridiculous by going through the form of a trial and lynching the victim in the name of the law.

When we stop moralizing about the evils of lynching and get down to the bedrock fact that the way to prevent lynching is to stop the crime that results in lynching, we shall begin to get somewhere. Human nature is a characteristic that advocates of a federal lynching law do not take into the equation.

During the past few days newspapers have, almost without exception, paid tribute to the National Guardsmen who killed four and wounded seven unarmed citizens of Bedford County at Shelbyville, Tenn. Throughout the country, except in Bedford County, the tragedy is exalted as an inspiring example of upholding the majesty of the law. It is natural for people to feel that way about it in all localities, except in the particular spot in which the crime was committed.

There is no greater fallacy than the assumption that communities in which lynchings take place are uncivilized. Bedford County is one of the most progressive in the state. Its soil is fertile. Its people are educated. They have good schools, excellent highways and live in modern homes. They are typical of the best citizenship to be found in any rural community in the country.

On the whole they are about as law-abiding as people are anywhere. The mistake made in dealing with the lynching problem is to consider it an index to the prevalent standard of civilization. They had every intention of lynching the negro who attacked a 14-year-old white girl. The four men who were killed by the guardsmen in protecting the negro were, no doubt, good average citizens, who would not harm any individual except to avenge one, and only one, crime.

Each year there is a report from Tuskegee Institute on the number of lynchings in the country. It is regrettable that a majority of them take place in the south. If the statistics show a gradual improvement, the reformers erroneously attribute it to the effectiveness of their preachments. Upon closer inspection the reports would reveal that lynching falls off or increases in proportion to the reduction or increase in the crime that provokes lynching.

Nothing is more ineffective than to talk about lynching being a blight upon the community, and how long it will take to live down the odium. Nobody ever disagrees with the argument, but when the crime is perpetrated, all the public sentiment in the country will not prevent a lynching in that community.

Another common mistake is the assumption that negroes are greatly preferred as mob victims. The apparent preference is because they are more frequent offenders. Mobs are quite as much disposed to wreak vengeance on one person as another for the same provocation. The difficulty about discussing the problem honestly is that any person who looks the situation squarely in the face will be accused by some of advocating mob violence. On the contrary, everybody is opposed to mob violence. That is, they are opposed to it until the provocation strikes home. That is the situation now, always has been, and shows no sign of improvement.

There is an interracial society, composed of whites and negroes, who get together occasionally, denounce lynching and demand laws providing for federal intervention, removal of officers who surrender prisoners, and pay of some enourmous amount to the families of victims. For the most part this group is composed of college professors and ministers. With the ability that they have for making their voices heard and their influence felt, they are missing a grand opportunity to speak plainly and let the word seep down to the lowest strata of society. If, as they believe, they have a responsibility to wipe out lynching, let them make it clear that the way to prevent it is to put a stop to the crime that provokes it.

Unfortunately, whatever has been done in the way of preventing the commission of the crime has been the wide publicity given to lynchings. People are shocked and horrified by descriptions. The scenes are revolting. Men are transformed into mobs of mad men, but undeniably the sight of a lifeless body, bullet-ridden, swinging from the limb of a tree, carries a lesson with it to some who could not be reached any other way.

The so-called majesty of the law is not always the inspiring spectacle it is supposed to be. There is a widespread impression that many a guilty person beats the "rap." Technicalities and loopholes are always available to the accused, but the state must lay its cards on the table. A death sentence is not final. The power of commutation and pardon rests with the governor. There is always a possibility of escape from the penalty decreed by both the written and unwritten law.

It is no defense, but a statement of fact, to say that mobs are moved by unrestrained enthusiasm for administering justice, an erroneous and misdirected idea, but actual and inescapable.

WHEELING, W. VA.
REGISTER

DEC 21 1934

Burning Down the Shelbyville Court House

Down in Tennessee some of the tradition of the old south still linger in the minds of the people. And when someone living in another part of the country tells them that they should abandon those traditions, the southerners are prone to reply that the person who is trying to tell them something doesn't live in Tennessee and therefore doesn't know what he is talking about. And they add that persons living in other parts of the world should "mind their own business."

That might sound all right, but for the fact that similar retorts have been made by Africans, Asiatics, South Sea Islanders and dwellers in other parts of the world when Europeans or Americans tried to tell them that some of their local customs—such as sacrificing human beings before a clay idol—were not the right things to do, even though they may have been in accordance with local traditions. Arguments of this kind have been taking place on and off for many thousands of years. And in a great many cases, brutal and unjustifiable acts based on long standing tradition have been discarded. In other words, even though a foreigner may be failing to "mind his own business" when he tells a native to abandon a certain traditional custom, the foreigner wins his point in the end and the custom is abandoned, if such custom is absolutely unjustified.

The traditional custom of lynching clearly comes within the above classification. It is a custom that is absolutely unjustified. It is an attempt to bring about justice by upsetting and defying the established machinery of justice and proceeding along lines that tend to cause injustice (aside from any question of technical illegality) and therefore tend to defeat the very purpose by which lynchers are actuated.

In other words, it is less logical than trying to pick yourself up by your bootstraps, for the worst that can be said of that is that it doesn't get you anywhere. But lynching does take you farther into the realm of lawlessness.

The authorities in Tennessee deserve praise for preventing the lynching in this particular case. And the mob deserves condemnation both for the attempted lynching and the demonstration made after they found that the effort at lynching had failed. Sooner or later our southern neighbors will learn that the so-called "lynch law" defeats its own ends and makes for lawlessness.

And any Tennessee newspaper is welcome to reprint the above words with whatever comments they may care to make—no matter how venomous such comments may be; because in the end the truth will win out.

Lynchings-1934
Discussion.

White Press, Southern.

4526

NASHVILLE, TENN.
MORNING TENNES AN

DEC 23 1934

The Shelbyville Riot.

That a riot, with the tragic sequence of this one should occur in Bedford County is a fact that appears incredible now that the atmosphere becomes clarified and the major circumstances of this tragic affair become clearly delineated. For this riot at Shelbyville carries a grave portent that bids sober and law abiding men and women to give it serious consideration. This thing occurred in one of the finest counties of Tennessee. The citizenship of Bedford County is composed predominantly of the same strain that has played a great part in the history of this state. It is a county that has produced great soldiers, statesmen and patriots. The fine old courthouse destroyed was itself a landmark in the development of the state and a monument to the culture and enterprise of the citizenship of this county before the Civil War. If a mob can be mustered in Bedford County so reckless of all government and so contemptuous of the law that it would battle with a state guard in its effort to defile the prestige and sanctity of a court we may well believe that no county is safe from such an outbreak.

The salient facts of this occurrence begin with the commission of a crime in Bedford County for which the law imposes the death penalty. The criminal eludes a justly enraged posse of citizens from the community where this crime was committed, but is captured by a police officer in Shelbyville and delivered to the sheriff of Bedford County, and this sheriff delivers him to the sheriff of Davidson County for safe keeping until the law can bring him to the bar of justice.

At this point it may be well to remember that from the time this criminal was captured by the police officer he has been continuously in the custody of the law. He was caught by the law, held by the law and it is designed that he shall be tried by the law and punished by the law if guilty as charged.

In the construction of our code and constitution our forefathers foresaw that an emergency might arise where the forces at the command of a sheriff might be unable to uphold the law in his county, and they ordained that in such case the sheriff might call on the governor for aid and the governor was empowered to call the state militia into action to meet the emergency existing or impending. In this case the governor wisely heeded the call of Sheriff Gant, of Bedford County, and a body of the state guard took this prisoner from the Davidson County jail and on the day appointed delivered him into the custody of the court in Shelbyville and then stood by to insure that the processes of the law and the powers and duties of this court should not be usurped and defiled by a mob.

At this point the unthinking may say that this was a deal of trouble to protect a worthless criminal who is claimed to be clearly guilty and would be executed anyway. But any such persons have a very erroneous conception and understanding of the entire procedure. From the time this man was captured all the protective steps have been taken primarily to safeguard the orderly execution of the law, and the protection of the criminal is only an incident. Had the protection of this prisoner been the main purpose it could easily have been effected by having him to remain safely in the jail of Davidson County.

The law had set out, not to protect this man, but to try him for his life and execute him if found guilty as charged. It was the sovereign law of the state that was assaulted by the mob at Shelbyville, and it was the sovereignty of the law that was being upheld there by Sheriff Gant, the governor and the state guard. It was the law of the state being defended against "lynch" law. It was the government of the state protecting a county against the rule of a mob.

Mankind must and will have government and so far there have been found only two patterns of government that will work. One is a government of law and the other a government of men. In the Bible we read of a government of judges and a government of kings among the Israelites. Both models are in operation today. We have on the one side such examples as our own republic, England, France and Switzerland, and on the other such examples as Italy, Russia and Germany.

History also shows us that where the government of laws is overthrown by mob action the first thing the dictator does is to wreak merciless destruction on all mobs. Imagine a mob undertaking to defy an order of Mussolini,, Stalin or Hitler, or assaulting the police or military force of one of them. Such a mob would not be merely repulsed but even after it was dispersed its individual members would be hunted down and exterminated like rats and innocent citizens who were even suspected of being in sympathy with the mob would be executed without trial.

If it may be said that any mob has ever successful as an instrument of government, the most successful mob we can recall is the one that controlled the government of France following the French Revolution. But the remnants of that famous mob died in the streets of Paris under the guns of Bonaparte and never again during the rule of that autocrat was a mob formed in Paris.

There is nothing more useless than a mob in any country where an organized government is in operation. and there is nothing more sinister to a government of laws than the act of a mob in superseding the laws and the courts. The only hope of the poor, the ignorant and the weak is the maintenance and preservation of the government of law. For all men stand equal before the law. They do not stand equal before an autocrat, a dictator or a mob and there is no pretense that they do. It is the weak, the poor and the ignorant that are made the mud sills of an autocracy and kept there. If one is inclined to doubt this statement let him consider the status of the millions of Russian peasants today, or the political status of any other Russian citizen who is not directly connected with the inner organization through which Stalin rules.

Thomas Jefferson knew well that the rich, the strong and the wise could protect themselves under an empire or kingdom. He knew that under a government of men these classes would even have special rights and privileges whereby they would be able to exploit the weak, the ignorant and the poor. Out of his passionate devotion to the cause of the common man he evolved a pattern of government by law, so that all men should have equal rights, privileges and protection under the government, and though a man might go through life handicapped by poverty or ignorance his children should inherit this equality under the law and the government would insure that they should have opportunity to improve their lot in life.

In the philosophy of Jefferson there is no more room for a mob in Shelbyville than there is for a Stalin in Washington. Because mob rule is government by men in its crudest, rawest and most horrible form. The mob at Shelbyville that undertook to take one prisoner from the custody of the law to punish him also took another prisoner in the city jail from the custody of the law and freed him. It had neither conception of justice nor regard for it. It could destroy a historic temple of justice with a callous disregard for the toil and sacrifice it will entail on all the people of Bedford County to replace it.

Sheriff Gant did his plain duty when he called on the governor for aid in protecting the court and preserving the law in Bedford County. The governor performed his plain duty when he heeded this call and dispatched the soldiers of the state to uphold the law of the state. If either of them had shirked his plain duty he would himself have become a traitor to the law he had sworn to uphold and a traitor to the people who had clothed him with the power and the duty to preserve it.

The state guard at Shelbyville appears to have acted with great patience and forbearance under extreme danger and provocation. A digest of all accounts of this tragic occurrence compels the conclusion that these men exerted no more force than was absolutely required in performing the task to which they had been assigned. A reckless guard or an undisciplined guard might readily have converted the public square into a shambles and swept this mob from the streets with an appalling loss of human lives.

So many lay sermons can be preached from the text of this article that we shall not enter that field now. But there is one great truth we may do well to carry in our minds, and that is, that the seeds of our government were planted in the hearts of the people, and it became rooted in our homes and firesides, and so long as it is cherished and respected in our homes and firesides it will continue to be an irresistible force, far beyond and above the powers of tyrants or mobs, but when that support fails this government will fail with it, and a strong man will arise to take charge of our destinies.

Nashville, Tenn. Banner
December 29, 1934

Governor Lauded For Troop Order

Committee on Interracial Cooperation Urges Change Of Venue for Negro

Resolutions commending Gov. Hill McAlister for his action in sending troops to Shelbyville following the attempt of a mob to storm the Bedford County Courthouse and secure E. K. Harris, Negro, on trial for his life; expressing sympathy for the "good citizens of Shelbyville"; and petitioning for a change of venue in the case were adopted by the Nashville Committee on Interracial Cooperation at a recent meeting.

The consensus at the meeting was reported to be that "the all too general failure of officers and courts in the recent past to prosecute and punish members of lynching mobs was partly responsible for the Shelbyville outbreak". It was suggested that legislation be enacted at the next session which will make mandatory a change of venue in all cases which involve danger of mob violence.

The resolutions presented by a committee made up of Rabbi Julius Mark, the Rev. John Baggett, and Prof. Albert E. Barnett were as follows:

"Be It Resolved, (1) That we heartily commend Gov. Hill McAlister, Gen. J. H. Ballew, Col. R. H. Bond, and Sheriff T. E. Gant for the courage and vigor with which they proceeded in preventing the lynching of the Negro prisoner, E. K. Harris; while deploring the loss of life and the destruction of property, it is felt that the inviolability of orderly legal procedure is to be defended and maintained at all costs.

"(2) That we commend the good citizens of Shelbyville and Bedford County, who with all others elsewhere condemn the lawlessness that has brought shame on their fair city and county. These splendid people have evidenced their good citizenship in their cooperation with the forces of the law and in their expressed determination not to let the mob get the upper hand again.

"(3) That state and federal officers who possess the requisite authority thoroughly investigate the disorder and destruction of property and bring the parties responsible for it to speedy trial. To permit the perpetrators of such outrages to go unpunished will encourage to future and increasingly worse disorders.

"(4) That we respectfully petition Judge T. L. Coleman to grant a change of venue in order that the trial of the prisoner in question may take place under more nearly normal conditions than are probably possible in Bedford County in the near future."

SPARTANBURG, S. C.
JOURNAL
DEC 22 1934

That Shelbyville Mob

If any one will take pains to read very carefully the reported details of the mob activities at Shelbyville, Tenn., they will detect plainly enough how utterly hypocritical would be the pretense that this lynching mob desired justice, or was moved by a sense of outrage against the law. It cared nothing whatever about law and rights. It had no respect for the temple of justice itself. That building the mob destroyed. They threatened to burn the jail. They made threats of all kind that had no relation to penalty for a crime.

The lawless crowd is referred to several times in news stories as a "maddened mob." What was it maddened by? The escape of a negro from justice? No, for the negro was still securely held by officers. He will duly be tried according to law.

The mob in fact wanted to get all the excitement and thrills of a "nigger killing," and on being thwarted, substituted the sensational business of burning a courthouse. A lynching mob like this displays human nature at its lowest and most wildly dangerous manifestation. This is the truth of it.

UNION, S. C.
TIMES
DEC 21 1934

Shelbyville, Tenn., has produced a new stunt in lawlessness. It burned down a $150,000 courthouse when thwarted in its effort to lynch a Negro prisoner. The prisoner had been spirited away. State militiamen slew two members of the mob and wounded two others. Fortunately for the state the courthouse was insured. But the loss will fall upon the insurance companies and ultimately passed on to the public. The Negro was charged with criminal assault upon a white girl, but since the judge while trying the case ordered a mistrial, there must be grave doubt of his guilt.

The tragedy reveals anew the danger of mob violence. It will be many a year before Shelbyville will be rid of the scars of the conflict.

Chattanooga, Tenn.
NEWS
DEC 26 1934

Open Forum

The Governor's Action

Editor The News:

The eight-column streamer flashed across the front page of the leading newspapers throughout the country—"Soldiers Kill Two in Lynch Mob"—discloses to a great extent the importance with which these newspapers have regarded the events which dominated the town of Shelbyville on December 19.

Heretofore this writer has often stated that Tennessee is the best State in the South, best from many points of view. These events have made me more steadfast in my opinion.

Analyzing the situation, we see the effects of repercussion, a sentiment once sufficiently created produces an outburst which if extreme and aggravated often incites the same passion in neighboring localities; thus lynching has generally become a Southern institution. We recall the recent events in Florida.

But Tennessee repudiated this glowing Southern sentiment. Tennessee, apparently, is governed by a justice-loving authority. When that despicable sentiment of mob violence became evident immediate steps were taken to mobilize troops to prevent possible or probable outbursts, the extremity of the situation was scarcely imaginable, but it seems that ample precautions were taken for the events that were reasonably foreseen. These, however, proved to be insufficient for the prevention of the entire events that followed. But it may be reasonably admitted that considerable injustice was frustrated by what measures were taken.

Let us commend Gov. McAllister for his vigilance; let us hope that Tennessee and Gov. McAllister may stand out as exemplars of civilized sentiment and the faithful execution of authority; let us hope that the Tennessee authorities are pioneering a new procedure in the handling of assault suspects.

It is to be regretted that the courthouse and other property were damaged, that this was not reasonably foreseen and prevented; but, sacrifice what you may—even though it be a courthouse—a human life was saved for the disposition of a court of justice. Let us further hope that any subsequent uprising may be entirely avoided and that the trial may proceed in a manner consistent with authority, according to the law and evidence in the case.

ROBERT [illegible] BRYANT.

Chattanooga, December 24.

GREENSBORO, N. C
NEWS
DEC 24 1934

A GRAND SCHEME.

As an effective cover-up, the proposal made in the wake of Shelbyville's outburst of mobbery offers possibilities which certainly have not obtained in ordinary outbreaks; as if clashes between troops and mobsters which brought death to four and injuries to a score of others and burning of a $150,000 courthouse could in any sense be termed ordinary.

But to the proposal and the technique, even though it may not be needed, which it ingeniously provides. In the wake of the violence, while the courthouse ruins still smouldered, additional troops patrolled the section to ward off threatened race rioting, and efforts were made to find office space for authorities to whose quarters the firebrand had been applied, Shelbyville citizens, in mass meeting assembled, proposed organization of a vigilante committee which would aid in maintaining order and preserve the peace after the national guardsmen departed.

In the meantime no official investigation—and you know how these investigations generally terminate anyway—has as yet been started. Authorities, with their offices and their courthouse burned out from under them, are obviously operating under a decided handicap. Their announced excuse, however, is the excitement and confusion, the high feeling, which still prevail. Civil inquiries will be launched "as soon as things quiet down a bit."

And here, if one may be so bold as to guess, is where the vigilantes come in. The willingness of citizens, some of whom are without doubt sincere and to be commended for their assumption of civic responsibility, to take a hand after the damage has been done gives way to the question of where they were as the mob formed, charged back and forth, burned a temple of justice with the subsequent raising of somebody's taxrate, which, after all may be one of the minor considerations, and then dissipated, as mobs have a way of doing, into thin air? The mobsters were citizens themselves, weren't they? What's to prevent them becoming vigilantes and thus be intrusted with ferreting out and protecting themselves? The transformation from a mobster to a vigilante may not be difficult in the least.

It's a grand scheme Shelbyville citizens have; but mighty few real friends of law and order would have it on a Christmas tree.

Lynchings-1934
& Discussions.

White Press, Southern.

4527

Augusta, Ga., Chronicle
November 12, 1934

Can Lynching Be Cured?

A Weekly Editorial

By Rev. W. A. Tyson, D. D.

Our sister states of Florida and Alabama have recently come into the limelight in another lynching. The crime provoking the lynching was of a most revolting nature, and enough to stir the anger of any man. The brutal punishment of the offender was also revolting, and it stirs one's sense of decency and fair play to deplore such action.

Remedies for Lynching

Every time there is such a flare-up there is talk of passing a Federal anti-lynching law with teeth in it; it is proposed at this time. Of course its provisions are to put all such cases into the hands of Federal officers, Federal Courts, and the trials of the offenders are to take place distant from the provocation where the heat of mob action is not found, and where those on juries are not connected with the offenders by social, business or political ties.

Nearly every state in the union has drastic anti-lynching laws now; they are not enforced; there are but few cases on record of any one even brought to trial on the charges of lynching, and fewer records still of any convictions. It is a matter where evidence is hard to get. Those in the mob cannot and will not testify, because of self-incrimination, and none else knows; one is either a part of the mob or is afraid to be around it. One may know those who are in it but his evidence will be hearsay, for the most part.

There are more effective remedies than laws of man. We believe in the laws of man; they are necessary, but far more potent are the laws of God, the laws of social custom, and the laws of civilization. It is these laws which must have attention before we will stop the tion. shocking, brutal mob action which sometimes flares all over the na-

Sectional Interference

One of the most hurtful influences in the South in many a year has been the outside interference in the Scottsboro case. The crime committed was revolting; the victims of the crime were hardly respectable, and their characters were besmirched in courts; but the supposed low moral and social state of the wronged parties did not excuse the crime.

The very fact that the perpetrators got to the court room at all was a great moral and social victory. Just a few years ago the jail would have been stormed and Judge Lynch would have dealt summary justice.

After the trial outsiders came from New York, and up East. National publicity was obtained; because the outsiders did not know the mind of the South and because they were critical and prejudiced, they stirred almost everyone against them and their clients. Daniel Swift and S. Kone, New York attorneys, have been indicted, charged with an attempt to bribe one of the victims.

All of this is partly responsible for the several vicious lynchings so recent in Alabama and Florida. However, be it understood that such lack of judgment and the wrongs done by the outsiders do not excuse lynching. There is no excuse for that.

Hopeful Signs

The high class lawyers are taking steps to rid the bar of those who aid crime and side-track justice, or unduly delay the punishment of crime. The certainty of punishment in a reasonable time will do much to destroy the desire to lynch a criminal.

"Pitiless publicity" in the matter of lynchings will serve to educate the public mind away from such a form of punishment. Good people will use strong influences against it, and those who are easily inflamed will have reserves built against temptation. The most effective publicity will originate in and be led by those in the sections where it is needed.

Education promotes culture; both of these beget understanding and good judgment; such powerful influences are becoming more widespread, and will eventually overcome mob action. It is hoped that we may speed such forces.

In the meantime the spirit of fairness and the orderly administration of the law has powerful support, and we are sure will continue to have. And people are being drawn toward God and the right, with some encouraging progress.

Fayetteville, N. C., Advocate
November 8, 1934

The Crime of Rape And Mob Violence

Criminal assault on woman by brutes in human form seem psychological in the matter of recurrence.

The recent Florida affair in which a negro was put to death by an infuriated mob for assaulting and slaying a white woman was characterized by spectacular features without precedent in the country.

So sure was the mob that there would be no formidable interference with its purpose and plans to lynch the negro, at the hands of the constituted authorities, that it actually advertised the lynching by inviting the white people of the community in which it occurred to witness it.

If reports are accurate it was an extremely brutal affair and the perpetrators should be dealt with as the law directs, not only for its volation, but so flagrantly and openly flouting its representatives.

Such disregard of the authorities entrusted with the enforcement of the law gives direct encouragement to mob violence by the implication that it may be practiced with impunity.

While we have no brief for the mob we have no pity or sympathy for its victim in cases wherein innocence and virtue are assailed, even without the usual accompaniment of brutal murder, such as was perpetrated in the case of the young woman in Florida.

It may be stated as an abstract proposition that if there be no lynching, there must be no crime committed upon the person and body of innocent womanhood, for whenever and wherever it occurs, north, south, east or west the perpetrator faces a potential mob and if he escapes violence at its hands he has the authorities to thank for a degree of alertness seldom available in such cases.

Tampa, Fla. Tribune
November 9, 1934

Agitating Anti-Mob Laws

A recent Florida lynching, with its spectacular features, has stirred anew the discussion of lynching and means for its prevention throughout the country. There is no occasion, however, for singling out Florida for particular criticism on the subject. Florida has by no means been the chief offender in resorting to summary executions. With two other states, Florida ranks third in the number of lynchings in the past five years. Georgia and Mississippi lead with 14 each Alabama has had 12, Florida, Louisiana and Texas eight each.

Agitation for the enactment of an anti-lynching law by Congress is being renewed. One measure to that end—the Wagner-Costigan bill—is pending in Congress and has been enacted in a few states. It provides two penalties. Under one, every county in which a lynching occurs would be liable to the family or relative of the victim from $2000 to $10,000. South Carolina has a law to that effect, in operation since 1896. Several times the penalty of $2000 has been collected, and advocates of this method claim that no lynching has subquently happened in any county fined. The other method of the Wagner-Costigan bill makes criminally liable any officer who assists or conspires with a mob to deliver to it a victim of lynching.

It is questionable if this law or any lay would stop lynching or even noticeably reduce it. After all, the chief cause of lynching is the usual delay and frequent failure of the orderly processes of justice in convicting and punishing criminals.

Knoxville, Tenn., News-Sentinel
November 10, 1934

Is This Kidnaping Illegal?

CLAUDE NEAL, a negro, was taken by a mob from the Brewton, Ala., jail, dragged across the state line and lynched in the woods near Marianna, Fla.

The Justice Department says that the Lindbergh kidnaping law does not give it power to prosecute members of the mob.

The Lindbergh law says that punishment shall be inflicted upon all persons found guilty of transporting across a state line "any person who shall have been unlawfully seized, confined, inveigled, decoyed, kidnaped, abducted or carried away by any means whatsoever and held for ransom or reward or otherwise."

Claude Neal was not "confined," nor "inveigled," nor "decoyed." He was not held for "ransom," nor for "reward." Decidedly not.

But Claude Neal was "unlawfully seized" from the custody of Alabama authorities. He was "kidnaped." He was "abducted." He was "carried away." And he was held "otherwise" than for ransom or reward. Decidedly so.

The lawyers of the Justice Department say, in effect, that the kidnapers of Claude Neal wiped out their identity as kidnapers when they became the lynchers of Claude Neal. They say, in effect, that altho the Federal Government punishes kidnapers who try to extort money from the family of the victim, it does not punish kidnapers who merely take the life of the victim.

According to this, the mob members would have incurred the wrath of the Federal Government had they held him alive and unharmed, demanding that his family pay $100—which is probably more than the family possesses—for his release. But since the mob tortured him, hanged him, and ghoulishly mutilated and exhibited his body, they purged themselves of any violation of the Federal law.

If that is the law, it is a travesty of justice. At least the Justice Department should test the law in the courts.

ANTI-LYNCHING PLEA IS MADE TO NEGROES

Post 12-5-34 [illegible]

Support To Prohibitive Legislation Urged By Speaker

A plea for all citizens to support anti-lynching measures was made by William Pickens, field secretary of the National Assn. for the Advancement of Colored People in addressing a meeting for Negroes last night at 16th-St. Baptist Church.

The speaker delivered similar messages to meetings in Woodlawn and Bessemer this week.

Inviting Trouble

Commercial Appeal
11-30-34
Memphis
Tenn

Every time a community and its law-enforcement representatives permit mobs to defeat the orderly processes of justice they provide just so much more fuel for the energies of those who are very aggressively pressing for enactment of a federal anti-lynching law which, as now proposed, would not only transfer to the federal government certain state prerogatives of law enforcement, but would heavily penalize counties in which mob law has had its way.

That an extraordinary effort will be made to have the next Congress approve the anti-lynching act is already evident. Members are already being canvassed as to their sentiments. There is ground for believing that sentiment in favor of the law has gained since the last Congress adjourned.

Objection to the law in this section is not based on any sympathy for lynchers, or on any belief that summary justice has one single thing to recommend it. Rather, is it believed that such a law, because of its very provisions, would defeat its own purpose. Then, too, it has that highly objectionable feature of taking from individual states powers of law enforcement which are, and should remain, peculiarly their own.

However, if there is not greater recognition of community responsibility in avoiding mob excesses, passage of the federal anti-lynching law is a certainty. Those who agitate mob violence and those who lead mobs would do well to reason that they are doing far more than wreak vengeance on some hapless victim by their thoughtlessness. They are helping bring what will prove disastrous and thoroughly objectionable federal interference into local affairs.

Humiliating Tragedy

Nothing could be more erroneous than to assume that the killing of four and the wounding of seven Bedford County citizens by the state militia at Shelbyville was an inspiring example of upholding the majesty of the law of Tennessee.

There was nothing inspiring about it.

It was pitiful and humiliating.

The spectacle of the dead and wounded, and the sight of the ashes of the courthouse, burned by outraged neighbors of the victims, bear witness to a great tragedy that followed closely in the footsteps of stupidity.

There was no excuse for shooting and bayoneting. Troops were requested by local authorities to protect a negro on trial for assaulting a 14-year-old schoolgirl. They were sent to calm the natural indignation of her relatives and neighbors, not to kill them.

Moreover, if troops were to be sent, the authorities should have sent enough adequately to handle the case, not a mere handful.

A day spent in argument over an application for a change of venue added fuel to the flame of impatient citizens. The announcement that a mistrial had been entered, with the prospect of more delay, and news that the culprit had been spirited away, brought to a climax a feeling that was already at fever heat.

The crime was committed on Nov. 14. Court should have been convened and the accused given an immediate trial. Assuming that he was guilty, he should have been executed. Then it would have been proper to talk about the majesty of the law.

There are crimes for which punishment must be swift and certain.

The Important Lesson From The Shelbyville Affair

News
12-3-34
Birmingham
Ala

The horrible events at Shelbyville, Tenn., no doubt contain several lessons, but the one which is the most important of all, just as it is the most obvious, is this: mob violence, once it is let loose, knows no bounds, and is the very antithesis, not merely of law and order, but of everything we hold dear in civilization; therefore society must strive, not simply to hold mobs in check by the stern resistance of the law's arm when they do arise, though that is vitally important and necessary, but above all to eradicate the mob spirit itself.

That is not a new lesson, to be sure. But the Shelbyville affair illustrates it more forcefully than any other instance of mob action in a long time. The Tennessee mob went to the greatest extreme. Not only did it defy the law and attempt by force to defeat it; it went so far as to burn down the symbol of the law and of justice—the symbol, it might even be said, of civilization itself—the courthouse. There is nothing else that symbolizes so completely the essence of all that mankind have striven for in upbuilding civilization as the temple of justice. Yet the Shelbyville mob in its fury burned down the courthouse.

The mob was prevented from carrying out the lynching upon which it was bent—though at a frightful cost; four men are dead as a consequence. That is tragedy of the grimmest sort and it is utterly deplorable. But the state troops could not have done otherwise than perform their duty; and it must be borne in mind that the mob was the aggressor.

This affair could be duplicated every time a mob gathers. Mobs do not always go so far as this one did; but every mob holds as much potential danger and destruction. It is only by chance or circumstance that mobs do not always go to such extremes.

The lesson of Shelbyville is simply that it is best to let the law take its course. When all men realize that, the mob spirit will disappear.

New Orleans, La., Item
December 13, 1934

Lynching Act Next?

IT IS worth noting that when Mr. Roosevelt asked this week for state and national co-operation against crime and criminals he denounced "horrifying lynchings" along with "appalling kidnapings" and "widespread drug peddling." He extended his remark on lynching by saying, "It is no longer confined to one section of the Country unfortunately," thereby classifying it as a national evil.

At times here of late lynchings that have affected both races have been as pronounced in Eastern, Northern and Western states as Southern lynchings in which Negroes are usually the victims.

The emphasis the President puts on the subject is very likely to prove significant of his attitude toward Federal legislation on it. Senator Costigan of Colorado has already given notice that he will bring again into Congress an act against this crime. If the President's state of mind is betokened by his words this week, it is likely to be even harder to beat a Federal act against lynching than it was when Senator Harrison had to read the Bible to his colleagues for many hours in order to stall off a favorable vote on one.

BASICALLY THE SAME

Advertiser
12-3-34
Montgomery
Ala

The mob scene which took place in Shelbyville, Tenn., differed in many respects from the usual spectacle of its kind, yet basically it was the same, same mad actors, same excuse, same travesty on civilization. It differed in that the victim escaped and in the damage the mob wreaked after he had been spirited away.

The fact that the intended victim escaped should give little solace to those who deplore such happenings. Credit for removing him goes entirely to the officers and men of the Tennessee National Guard. The guardsmen also deserve praise for their conduct in repulsing the mob. It is a tribute to the organization that its members were willing to fight their fellow Tennesseans in their efforts to uphold law and order.

No act could better illustrate the blind ignorance of mob rule than does the burning of the courthouse. Failing in its purpose to wreak vengeance on the Negro, the people of the county satisfied their lust by slashing at the very symbol of freedom and justice.

In commenting The Memphis Press-Sicmitar said:

> The mob which burned the Courthouse at Shelbyville last night was more logical than most mobs because they did not burn the prisoner; they burned the Courthouse.
>
> For a community where a mob rules has no need for a Courthouse. What need has a mob for trial? The judge, the jury, the careful search for truth and justice which the Courthouse stands for—the law?
>
> The young men of Shelbyville were not slain by the soldiers, who did their manly duty of upholding the law. They were slain by the mob, which forced the soldiers to resistance to lawlessness. If they were spectators, they were murdered; if they were part of the mob, they committed suicide.
>
> Out of the ashes of the Shelbyville Courthouse must arise another Courthouse not made with hands—respect for law.

Such revolting scenes as that which took place at Shelbyville will some day spur those who hold dear the principles of justice to rise up and stamp out mob rule.

White Press, Southern.

4528

Lynchings-1934

Discussion

DALLAS, TEX
TIMES HERALD

DEC 22 1934

TEACHING WOULD-BE LYNCHERS A GRIM LESSON

IT IS REGRETTABLE that the attempted lynching at Shelbyville, Tenn., resulted in three deaths, but when a mob is in action drastic steps are necessary to check it.

Perhaps a more lavish and intelligent use of tear gas would have dispersed the mob and eliminated the necessity of using firearms, but tear gas is relatively a new weapon and those who are called upon to use it lack experience.

Police departments of most cities the size of Dallas and smaller have facilities for using not only tear gas but other modern methods of riot suppression. But the local officers in few towns the size of Shelbyville are so equipped.

The would-be lynchers in Shelbyville were, of course, enraged at the efforts of the national guard to stop them, but the guard did its duty, even though it may not have functioned as efficiently as could be desired.

When a few more instances of this kind reveal that officers who are resisting mobs will shoot to kill, would-be lynchers will think twice before attempting to seize a prisoner. The members of the Shelby mob probably thought that they would get off as lightly as have the members of mobs in other places.

[redacted]

Symbolic

Mob violence boomeranged back to the 300 to 500 maddened citizens of Shelbyville, Tennessee, Wednesday as they made a vain effort to lynch a negro accused of assault up~~on a 14-year~~ old white girl. Two men were killed and seven wounded by the bullets and bayonets of the state militia, called out to quell the uprising. In addition, the courthouse was burned at a loss of $150,000.

Dispatches from the town of the violence did not specify that the dead and injured were members of the mob, but it is hardly likely that they were not. Neither was it said that the raging mobsters set fire to the courthouse, but again it is hardly likely that they did not.

Thus men who went out to deny an accused his constitutional right of trial by jury found two of their own number slain while the county found itself subjected to the loss of a fine courthouse.

Some will say that the life of the accused negro was not worth it, but more was at stake than an humble prisoner's life. Troops and the courthouse represented law and orderly processes of justice; and what, as the Greensboro News asks, "is more worth fighting for than preservation of those forces which stand for the right of trial by jury, for maintenance of the fundamental tenet that a defendant, who may be any of us tomorrow, is innocent until proved otherwise, and that no man is to be judged, must less condemned to death, until he has had his day in court?

It is significant that denied its prey the mob burned the courthouse. It is more. It is symbolic

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Columbia, S. C. State
December 28, 1934

The Principle Be[illegible]ob-Resistance— and Federal Anti-Lynching Law.

William Pickens, writing from New York to the Springfield, Massachusetts, Republican, about the recent successful attempt of the state of Tennessee to prevent a lynching, presents in its true light the principle upon which governments act in defense of their sovereignty. He goes to the heart of the matter, as did The State a few months after its founding forty-odd years ago. That same principle has been presented a hundred times since in these columns, but it is one which the passion-swayed, the ignorant and the superficial cannot or will not concede.

Here is the Pickens letter:

> Governor Hill McAllister and his militia in Tennessee were not defending an accused Negro when shots were fired into a savage, drunken mob at Shelbyville, they were defending the state of Tennessee, the rights and security of all its citizens, and the very existence of order and law among men. And their defiance of the mob was at this time a very necessary defens. of the South. The courage and consistency of the law in Tennessee are a striking contrast to the utter failure of all law in Florida in the last days of October. The governor of Tennessee has so far prevented his state from adding another to the long list of lynchings that have disgraced us in the year of 1934.
>
> The enemies of the governor, and especially all would-be lynchers, will try to pretend that white men were shot in defense of a Negro. That is narrow and false. That Negro was only a symbol; the real action was between law and brute forces, between order and chaos. An accused Negro was being made the excuse for overthrowing law by a savage mob filled with whisky. There could be no motive to make sure that the Negro did not escape punishment; there was no chance for the Negro to escape his rewards; he was in a white court, with a white judge and jury, charged with an offense against white people. In such a situation, it would seem that outsiders should be concerned to see that he got a fair trial instead of feeling it necessary to try to make sure that he would be punished.
>
> But the point we wish to make here is that the action of the governor and his militia in resisting the mob had no relation to a Negro or to Negroes, except incidentally. They were defending themselves, their offices, their state, their society, their honor and even the best interests of the members of the mob itself.

Whether the author of that letter be white or colored does not concern us. The important thing is that he presents the truth. When a sheriff, standing at the door of his jail, defies the mob demanding the surrender of a prisoner, and kills or is killed in resisting the mob, he is not "defending" the prisoner. He may believe the prisoner to be guilty and deserving death. He may even contemplate with satisfaction seeing that prisoner hanging at the end of a rope—if he so hangs by due process of law. But at the moment the sheriff represents the Law; at the moment he is the custodian of the symbol of government. He embodies that majesty which a civilized, self-governing people hold for themselves and have delegated him, as their official agent, to maintain, sustain, defend. And the mob is attempting to tear from him that trust; the mob, spurning government and organized society is, in effect, in violent revolution.

The issue is too clear for argument. There can be conceded no exceptions. For any exceptions must be against the mandates by a sovereign state, and must be made by the mob, and what power is there to limit the mob's "exceptions" to the government's decrees! If it have the right and power to abrogate one, then the mob may rule in every case where the mob elects to rule. The line is clearly marked between mob rule and civilized government. It cannot be crossed.

Reading this, there are men believing that personal vengeance is theirs who will say in their unordered and undisciplined minds: "Then damn the law." And so they have been doing in many of the states with much impunity. They have been damning the law for so long in the South, despite all the efforts made by some Southerners in behalf of the honor of these states, and the integrity of self-government, that another force is organizing against them. The Costigan-Wagner anti-lynching bill is looming in congress.

For many years we have warned the lynching element and their sympathizers that they were inciting congress to such action. But doubtless the warnings did not reach them; their pursuits are not literary. But the menace of federal action in this matter is much more pronounced than ever before. The federal government has "gone after" kidnapers, bank robbers and automobile thieves. It may be on the verge of assuming charge of detection, prosecution and punishment of lynchers.

We have made many a fight for "state rights," and federal control in the lynching field would be a destructive invasion. But, truth to say, the "menace" of it is not so shocking to us now as it was forty years ago. If it comes, the lynchers and their sympathizers must shoulder the entire responsibility. And the shock to us would be softened by contemplation of the fear it would engender among the lawless and passion-swayed in lynchland.

NEW ORLEANS, LA.
TRIBUNE

DEC 30 1934

"Lynching The Law"--The Lesson Of Shelbyville

The PITTSBURGH PRESS

THE lynch mob which burned the courthouse at Shelbyville, Tenn., last Wednesday, was more logical than most mobs.

"They did not burn the prisoner; they burned the courthouse," comments the Memphis Press-Scimitar, a Scripps-Howard paper. The editorial continued:

"A community where a mob rules has no need of a courthouse. What need has a mob for trial, the judge, the jury, the careful search for truth and justice which the courthouse stands for—the law?

"The young men of Shelbyville were not slain by the soldiers, who did their manly duty of upholding the law. They were slain by the mob, which forced the soldiers to resistance to lawlessness. If they were spectators, they were murdered; if they were part of the mob, they committed suicide."

The Shelbyville incident, which cost three lives, has been a particularly illuminating demonstration of the objects, the methods and the sort of people who are responsible for mob violence.

The attack on the courthouse, in an effort to lynch a Negro prisoner, was utterly needless. The prisoner was already on trial. There was every prospect that he would be legally condemned to die. There had been no miscarriage of justice, no hesitation on the part of the authorities in proceeding against him.

The mob sought to lynch him out of a mere lust for revenge and butchery—because it was drunk, or hysterical or purely wanton.

THERE are persons who try to condone lynching, on the grounds that it is prompted by the delays and uncertainties of the law; by the necessity of protecting womanhood; by self-preservation on the part of Southern whites, and other high-sounding reasons.

Those who have studied, or have witnessed, lynchings, know that none of these high-sounding reasons is responsible.

Mobs are made up of the dregs of the community where the lynching occurs. They are normally led by men who have little interest in the purity of womanhood or the preservation of race. They are inflamed by liberal supplies of liquor and foul talk until hysteria takes control and mob psychology runs unchecked.

The writer, as a newspaper reporter, saw a Negro burned at stake some years ago, in Memphis. He was guilty of a terrible murder. But there was no cause to lynch him. He was captured, had confessed and was to be tried in a trial that would have been a mere formality. His execution was certain; nobody ever doubted that he would escape the electric chair.

But the mob had made up its mind to have a lynching—and it had one.

MEN, women and even little children—thousands of them — cursed and screamed at the cringing man as he was bound to a stake—and lamented that there was too much gasoline used, that he died too fast, as the flames enveloped his body.

With his smoking bones still hot, hundreds crowded and fought to secure pieces of clothing, charred bits of wood, or portions of the corpse, as souvenirs.

Every decent instinct was temporarily submerged in the mad hysteria of the mob—crazed by the contagious brutality of a maniacal act of revenge.

The next day the community was sickened and shocked in the aftermath of its own bestiality.

Such lynchings are not the exception, but the rule.

They are not carried out because the law is failing, or because preservation of the home or the race are at stake—but because the lowest and most lewd and most unrestrained elements of a community, inflamed by savage talk and much liquor, give way to a suppressed lust for blood and violence.

On Wednesday Tennessee authorities demonstrated how a mob should be handled.

And the mob, in its wanton destruction of the courthouse and of militia equipment, demonstrated how false are all the arguments which have ever been made to defend or condone the crime of lynching.

Murfreesboro, Tenn.
NEWS-BANNER

DEC 21 1934

SHELBYVILLE'S BLOODY DAY

Turn back the vision a hundred and twenty years, and a blockhouse was burned in Shelbyville yesterday.

For a parallel to the three assaults on the courthouse by the mob, bloodshed, the defense of the law by the militia, the use of the torch and the smoldering ruins of the Hall of Justice, we go back to the early days of Tennessee.

Except for the matter of dress, the color of skin, and the modern surroundings, the shocking tragedy might have occurred in the period when the pioneers and the Indians were at death grips.

The emotional background was identical.

But above the tragedy, there is the courageous action of a Governor who sought to prevent a lynching, and the devotion to duty of militia who had no choice but to repel a mob with bullets **when justice itself was outraged.**

"Several people dead, many wounded, a town filled with gas, a $150,000 courthouse burned to the ground—all of this saturnalia of violence because a Negro was brought into the courtroom to face sentence.

The world can understand the mob spirit behind the usual lynching, as much as the world may deplore mob action. But the world cannot understand why a mob would try to prevent an alleged Negro rapist from being made to answer, before the bar of justice, for his alleged crime.

Last November 19, the young girl was temporarily excused from her classes in her school at Stump Valley, near Shelbyville. She was allegedly attacked in some bushes near the schoolyard. The Negro was arrested that night. Immediately a mob formed, and the Negro was rushed to Murfreesboro, fifty miles away. The mob from Shelbyville started toward Murfreesboro, and the Negro was taken to Nashville.

A month elapsed, and yesterday the Negro was taken to Shelbyville to stand trial.

Warned of danger, the Governor supplied militia to preserve order and to assure an orderly trial.

Throughout the month, no doubt, the horror of the attack upon the schoolgirl preyed upon the minds of the relatives. This is but natural. But behind the forming of the mob in Shelbyville yesterday also were some thwarted, reckless, moronic men thirsting for leadership. These are the men who foment lynchings. It is easy for them to mobilize the sheep minds in theh community, the rioting child-minds which will join in any mass attack or in any mass adventure, and which anticipate no harm to themselves in the mob's action.

The mob stormed the courthouse and was repulsed with tear gas. Again they stormed, and again they were repulsed. A third time they brandished guns and other weapons and pushed to the courthouse steps.

The troops, seeing that the very halls of justice were invaded, that a trial which they had pledged to safeguard was being violated, that justice itself, not a whimpering Negro, was being outraged, opened fire upon the mob . . . Shelbyville's Red Wednesday had reached its climax.

All it accomplished was the death of some of its own members, the destruction of a famous old building, the delay in meting out justice to the alleged Negro rapist, the blackening of Tennessee's name throughout the world. But was that all the mob accomplished? No. It prevented a Negro, accused of a horrible crime, from being made to answer before the bar of justice. It protected the hated object of its own fury.

Who was to blame for the net results of death and destruction in Shelbyville?

The ringleaders of the mob, blustering, ignorant souls which stir violence to satisfy their own lust for a brief moment of leadership—these were to blame. Those ignorant sheep-like followers of those moronic leaders—they were to blame.

In the courtroom, while all the fantastic tragedy was being enacted outside, sat a judge and a prisoner and a crowd of spectators.

Judge Coleman, perhaps, acted wisely in declaring a mistrial.

"I told the crowd that it was a Christmas celebration and not to get excited," he said.

A Christmas celebration! The ghastly irony of it!

Lynchings - 1934

Discussion —

White Press, Southern.

4529

Jackson, Miss., News
November 6, 1934

LEGAL HANGINGS

The Mississippi Supreme Court is maintaining a perfect batting average in the disposal of death sentence appeals, six cases of this kind having been affirmed within less than sixty days.

There are some very sincere but sadly mistaken people in Mississippi who are strongly opposed to capital punishment. Several years ago there was a nation-wide agitation to abolish the noose and the electric chair, but it made little progress, and none whatsoever in the Southern states, largely because of the criminal element in the negro population.

Officers of the law and prison authorities who have had extensive experience in handling negro criminals say that very few of them fear long terms or life tenure in the penitentiary. As a matter of fact, not many of them who are convicted have much fear of the gallows. They almost invariably show more stoicism when facing that fearful ordeal than white men. Usually they are wrought up to a stage of spiritual emotion that causes them to feel absolutely sure they have a through ticket to Heaven, and perhaps it is just as well they can delude themselves with that belief.

It is fairly safe to assume that the death sentence is going to remain a permanent fixture in the Mississippi statutes—almost as permanent as death itself. However, our legislature should quit its foolishness, dismiss all squeamishness, and substitute the electric chair for the gallows. Now that the central office of the penitentiary has been moved to the Parchman farm, arrangements should be made to build a death house at that institution and have all executions take place there in lieu of the ghastly and always semi-public hangings in the various counties of the state.

Tarboro, N. C., Wkly. Southerner
November 1, 1934

Merits of Lynching

The lynching of a Negro in Florida brings again to the front the perennial question of the justification of mob violence.

It would indeed be foolish to contend that lynching as a general rule is a good substitute for the law, for generalizations are usually untrue. In lynching there always exists the possibility of the wrong man being pu to death. In lynching also exists a germ of disregard for orderly processes which has the capability of spreading to encompass a dangerous breaking down of all law.

In addition, most lynching are accompanied by unnecessary cruelty and horror. The one in Florida certainly was. The Negro, after he was slain, was mutilated with knives, and his mangled body was hung in a public place for all to see. Such actions, of course, are barbaric, and as such, in a supposedly civilized country, are inexcusable and deplorable.

However, as horrible and as barbaric as most lynchings are, the horror and the barbarism are incidental accompaniments to the principal objective. Omitting them—as they sometimes are omitted — and considering the results for their intrinsic and abstract worth, one would have to be blindly prejudiced not to be able to see that lynchings accomplish something which the orderly process of law can never accomplish.

Most persons who are lynched in the South at least, are Negroes. This is not altogether due to racial prejudices but is largely the result of the fact that most persons who commit crimes which inspire communities to emotional rage happen to be Negroes. But regardless of race, lynchings can in many instances be justified. The principal justification lies in the fact that lynchings, as no law ever could, act as powerfully strong retarding influences on persons tempted to commit crimes similar to that for which someone may have been lynched. This is especially true on account of the fact that most persons to whom lynchings need to serve as an example belong to a class that is deplorably illiterate. Their information regarding what disposition is made of a criminal is often confined to what they actually see or hear first-hand newspaper accounts of distant electrocutions or hangings in state prisons never reach them. And even if they did, the retarding effect would not be as great because the fate of the criminal is not nearly so indelibly impressed by a headline as it is by the sight of a man's body riddled with bullets.

Considering a hypothetical case, suppose a Negro has committed an unspeakable asasult upon a white girl and has been guarded from the mob, tried, sentenced to die and been carried away to the state prison. To many illiterates, the matter ends there. All they know is what they have seen, and all they have seen is a criminal protected by soldiers and policemen from persons who would kill him. The criminal disappears and several months later he is put to death. But they never hear of this phase of the case at all. Suppose, on the other hand, they see him dragged from jail and hanged in front of the town hall. There they have unmistakable and vivid evidence of the fact that assaulting white women is not a healthful practice.

This newspaper does not approve lynching. Nevertheless, it is not so rabid in its opposition that it cannot see some merit in it, and some very valuable merit, at that.

Bishopville, S. C., Messenger
November 8, 1934

Lynching is very undesirable It is wrong in principle and practice. But there are two sides to it as there are two sides to each and every question. You may investigate and you may criticize and deplore lynchings in the South for certain crimes, but when you get juries to punish lynchers you have done something that has not been done yet. Lynching gets in the bones of some people when certain crimes are committed. The safest thing is to keep the prisoner out of the hands of would-be lynchers. It is a case of locking the door after the horse is stolen when a lynching is investigated.

BIRMINGHAM, ALA.
AGE HERALD

OCT 30 1934

Well Done!

Gov. Miller, fully aware of the implications of the handing over of the Negro Neal by the sheriff of Escambia County to the Florida mob which ultimately staged one of the most shocking lynchings on record, has called on the judge and solicitor of that circuit to investigate the circumstances of the affair at Brewton and, if it seems proper, to call a Grand Jury into action. Whether or not anything comes out of the inquiry which the governor has ordered, he is nevertheless to be complimented on having seen his duty in the premises and on trying to live up to it.

By what legal process the sheriff of Escambia County came to have custody of the wretch he so willingly gave up has not been made clear. It may very well have come about in some irregular fashion. Here was a Negro whom a mob was pursuing and whom Florida authorities were afraid to keep in the jail in which he would be normally incarcerated. So he is taken across the line and placed in the custody of the Alabama sheriff at Brewton, who may have accepted the obligation as a matter of grace and not of strict accountability.

But that fact, if it be a fact, would not, by every test of moral responsibility, clear him of criticism. It is to be hoped that his conduct will be so ventilated that other officials similarly placed will be governed accordingly. Somehow we must establish the proposition that officers of the law are expected to act courageously and effectively, where lynchers are concerned.

Birmingham, Ala., News
November 3, 1934

THE FLORIDA LYNCHING

To the Editor The News:

Please allow me space in your "Voice of the People" to say a few words to E. A. Lancaster, and anyone else who may share his views on the Florida lynching.

We have a case in Alabama, namely, the Scottsboro case, that is a far bigger disgrace to law and order than the Florida lynching. Their case has been in court a long time and they haven't yet, and probably never will, pay for their crime.

Negroes know that they may commit any crime against white girls and get the well known I. L. D. legal talent, free, for their defense. They also know that a mob will mete out swift justice. It will be many years before that crime against a white girl will be repeated in that section of Florida. It is being done, alarmingly often, in Alabama.

Mr. Lancaster says in his letter that the way the Negro died was barbarous. Did he ever consider the fact that the white girl's death was as cruel as it could possibly be? Did she not suffer untold agony before that fiend murdered her?

I think swift justice has been done.

8035 4th Ave., South. S. M. JOHNSON.

Birmingham, Ala., Age-Herald
October 29, 1934

The Florida Atrocity

It isn't easy to assign degrees of culpability in connection with this inexpressibly savage affair in Marianna, Fla. Alabamians are not free from blame. That weak-kneed sheriff at Brewton has much to answer for in letting a crowd of Floridians seize a prisoner he was sworn to safeguard. That is something which Gov. Miller should have investigated, if for no other purpose than of improving the morale of our sheriffs in general. But, whether the governor does this or not, he can count himself fortunate to have escaped the plight in which Gov. Sholtz finds himself. No state executive ever proved himself more shockingly incompetent when confronted with an emergency. His failure to stop the highly publicized lynching gives him a conspicuous place among gubernatorial ineffectuals.

He was waiting, we are told, for a call from the local authorities. He was standing on the letter of the law. But he knew that the local authorities could not be relied on to defend the law. The result is that he has produced the effect of having joined in that vast game of collusion which makes this lynching extraordinary in the history of mob violence. This bloody business was transacted with the utmost premeditation and in the full view of all the world. It was as though the lynchers were planning a bestial orgy, in the knowledge that they would not be interfered with. And they were right. They were allowed to do as they pleased, and for that fact Gov. Sholtz is primarily responsible.

That the victim was a vile creature, who was a murderer as well as a rapist, has nothing to do with the case, except that it explains how the resentment of a community could have grown into a jungle passion. But even this vile creature was entitled to protection before paying for his crime in terms of the law. And when those who carry the obligation of making this sanction good fail so unequivocally to live up to it, when they permit the most brutal instincts of a hysterical body of people to brush aside every dictate of civilization, we have reason to doubt the soundness of a society so incapable of guarding itself against a relapse into the obscene tortures of the dark ages

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Birmingham, Ala., Age-Herald
October 30, 1934

It isn't utterly beyond reason for sheriffs to be removed from office and for mob participants to be given long prison terms when a lynching occurs. During Gov. Kilby's administration that is exactly what happened after a lynching in Southeast Alabama. Are we growing more civilized—or less? The circumstances under which the Marianna lynching occurred make it easy enough to identify those responsible. If nobody is punished this time, Florida and Alabama may as well advise the world that mob murder is a custom they delight to honor.

* * *

The effort to have the steel price differential against Birmingham abolished has no more fervent and effective champion now than Publisher R. B. Chandler, of The Mobile Press-Register. It was on the basis of a letter from Mr. Chandler that the Mobile Chamber of Commerce came forward with its recent impressive resolution. Now comes the Kiwanis Club of Mobile, joining wholeheartedly in the fight, with promise of more Mobile organizations to follow.

Guntersville, Ala., Advertiser
November 14, 1934

FLORIDA'S DISGRACE

Although everybody in the community knew about it at noon, and although a crowd of several thousand had gathered by nightfall to watch the advertised lynching of a Negro at Greenwood, Fla., no public official in the whole state moved to prevent the atrocity. The fact that the "committee of six" could postpone the murder because the crowd grew too large, removes the only excuse the authorities could offer. Evidently this was no uncontrollable mob, but an assemblage easily amenable to control.

Whatever the crime committed by this wretched man, and however flagrant his guilt, the stain on the community is not removed, but intensified, by this barbarous form of retribution. It is such flagrant lapses from civilized conduct which give substance to demands for the undesirable remedy of a federal anti-lynching law.—Washington Post

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Roanoke, Ala., Leader
November 14, 1934

THE MOB DERS THE LAW AS WE S THE VICTIM

Another lynching bee has recently occurred just over the state line in Florida in which Alabama was implicated. The double crime of which the victim of the mob was guilty was such as to arouse the spirit of retaliation as nothing else can do. The feeling of those who composed the mob can easily be understood, however much their misguided zeal must be condemned. Every detail of the action of the mob served to prove that human passions when aroused and given reign lead only to recklessness and crime.

Without extended argument here as to the indefensibility of action by the mob, it is necessary only to emphasize that when this occurs the law is lynched as well as the victim of the mob's anger. The law, the only proper agent for punishment of the proven guilty, is likewise the only refuge provided for the innocent. Thus it is that the stroke aimed at the object of the wrath of the mob falls most heavily upon regularly constituted government, which is in effect the people themselves.

We merely add further the suggestion that unless public sentiment and heroic action on the part of officers of the law combine to prevent or to greatly diminish lynchings, the strong arm of the federal government may reach out to give the protection that is guaranteed to all of a fair trial by due process of law. Such exercise of federal power would not only be felt by the guilty, but would likely lay penalties upon the innocent in the form of heavy fines upon counties where lynchings are allowed to occur. Such a bill is already on the calendars of Congress. Surely this is worth our earnest consideration.

Birmingham, Ala. Post
November 14, 1934

~~Kidnaping and Lynching~~

124

In Arizona federal agents have arrested Oscar Robeson, dude rancher, and charged him with extortion [illegible] nection with the kidnaping of six-year-old June Robles a year ago.

In Oregon the federals are rounding up other suspects in the kidnaping case of Charles Urschel last August. Already 17 persons have been captured as part of the ring that hoped to profit from the $250,000 ransom paid for this Oklahoma millionaire's release.

Since congress passed the Lindbergh law 29 major kidnapings have occurred. Apart from the Robles case only two of these—the Hamm and Bremer cases in St. Paul—remain unsolved. The kidnaper of Mrs Stoll, while unapprehended, is known. Kidnapers and extortionists are serving a total of 1,111 years in payment for their crimes.

Thus surely the federal government's hand reaches for those cowardly criminals.

Apparently it is powerless or unwilling to reach for the mobs that openly seize and lynch their victims before the very eyes of the law they defy. The kidnap-lynching at Marianna, Fla., is a reminder that mobs continue to carry on their brutal work unhampered. Last year they lynched 28 persons. This year so far they have lynched 17. In the past five years there have been 94 lynchings in 20 states.

In his message to congress last session President Roosevelt included lynching with crimes "that call on the strong arm of the government for their immediate suppression." Despite a favorable committee report the Costigan-Wagner anti-lynching bill was smothered in the session's closing days.

The federal government, so effective in stamping out kidnaping, should have and use similar powers to curb lynching.

Newberry, S. C. Observer
November 20, 1934

THE DEFEAT OF GOVERNOR RITCHIE

124

The defeat of Governor Ritchie was not creditable to Maryland. He had been four times governor of the state, and had made one of the most notable state executives in American history. Governor Ritchie had proved himself from first to last a statesman. He was a good politician from the standpoint of knowing how to put things over with the people; but when it came to the necessity of choosing between statesmanship and playing politics, he remained the statesman.

When the lynching occurred on the Eastern Shore some months ago, Governor Ritchie proved that his oath to uphold the law was no mere formality. He earnestly condemned the mob method of punishinging criminals, and sought the arrest and prosecution of the lynchers. That was too much for his popularity. The longer a man stays in office, the more enemies he makes, because it is unavoidable that he should be free from giving offense to one group after another. When the sum total of those groups grows large enough, he is done for.

By one of the strange turns of politics, a good Southern Democrat is thus turned out of office, and a Republican is elected Governor of Maryland because the Southern white men who lynched a negro prefer anybody, even a Republican, to a governor who condemns lynching.

White Press, Southern.

Lynchings - 1934
&
Discussions.

4530

Murfreesboro, Tenn.
NEWS-~~BANNER~~

JUN 29 1934

Lynched Negro Mild-Mannered, Sober, Student Who Knew Him Well, Declares

The killing of Dick Wilkerson, 35 year old negro, near Manchester a few night ago was not a lynching but "cold blooded murder" in the opinion of a young man who knew him well, who is now a student at the State Teachers college.

The young man, who requested that his name not be used in connection with this article, declared that Wilkerson was known in his section as a quiet, well-mannered negro who at all times attended to his own affairs and left other folks' business alone.

"I have known him for eight or ten years," the student said, "and part of that time I worked with him in the field and I never even so much as heard him utter a single curse word.

"His death aroused more sympathy in Coffee county than that of any negro in my memory. The people are up in arms over the trouble and sentiment is strongly in favor of Wilkerson who bore an excellent reputation."

The student said that Wilkerson was a giant in size and every inch a real man. Regarding his sobriety, the young Coffee countian declared that he never smelled a drop of liquor on Wilkerson's breath in his life and the only time he heard him speak of whiskey was to mention the "bad of it."

"That is being called a lynching but it was just plain murder. A mob of cowardly, lawless, ignorant people of one of the backward sections of the county merely took the negro out and killed him. They even used his own car, the only one at the festival, to chase him down and shoot him in cold blood."

Another strong point that the young Coffee countian brought out which bears fine testimony as to the character of the slain negro is the fact that, despite the hard times, Wilkerson was never out of a job during crop season. His employers always like him, the youth said, and he made an excellent hand.

"The law should give this crowd the limit and show the world that this lawless bunch does not truly represent Coffee county."

BROWNWOOD, TEX.
BULLETIN

JUL 2 1934

To Check Lynching

ALMOST EVERYBODY agrees that lynching should be stopped, and almost everybody hopes that there may never be a repetition of the lawless outbreak which occurred the other day at Kirbyville when mob fury murdered a man accused of crime. Now the candidates for Governor are bein quizzed as to their attitude on the question—a wholly superfluous procedure, it seems to us—and are being asked to pledge their assistance in the strengthening of laws to curb mob activity. All the candidates, no doubt, will make favorable answers to the questionnaire.

There is not a great deal that either the Governor or the Legislature can do about lynching, other than to strengthen the statutory provisions for the punishment of those who engage in it. Mobs are born in the passions of the human heart, and lynchings are the expression of elemental savagery which may be found in some degree in every man and woman. The people as a whole can discourage mob outlawry by helping to remove, as far as possible, some of the primary causes of it—the slow movement of justice, the failure of the courts to deal adequately with criminals guilty of revolting crimes, the inefficiency or infidelity of sheriffs and other officers who sometimes yield cravenly to the threat of mob action, and similar conditions to be found throughout the state and the nation.

One thing, as we see the matter, does not need to be done, as a means of checking mob activity. That is the enlargement of the federal government's authority in the suppression and punishment of mobs. A mob would not fear the federal government to any greater degree than it fears the state government; and an extension of federal police power would actually cripple the state law enforcement agencies. Mobs can never be completely eliminated. but they can be discouraged by an enlightened public opinion, by an improved court system, and by a courageous devotion to duty on the part of officials who are charged with responsibility for preserving the peace and upholding the dignity of the law.

SUFFOLK, VA.
NEWS HERALD

JUN 21 1934

ONE WAY TO STOP THE MOB

A group of Mississippi women, whose feelings were outraged by a gruesome lynching in their state recently, wrote to their governor suggesting the enactment of a law that would automatically retire from office any sheriff or other peace officer who permitted a prisoner to be taken from him by force for the purpose of killing him. It is recalled that two Negroes were taken from a posse of county off[illegible] strung up to a bridge without the representatives of the law raising a hand. It was this incident that inspired the letter.

In their letter to the governor the Mississippi women protested against the action of the district attorney who "reported the case closed two hours after the bodies were cut down." They demanded that the investigation of the affair be reopened and an honest effort made to bring the mobbers to justice. It is quite evident that these protestants believe that there was collusion between the mob and the officers and that the district attorney condones the lawless act.

We believe that these women reflect the sentiment of every decent, God-fearing, law-abiding citizen of Mississippi whose fair name has too often been smeared with similar episodes. Lynching bees, all too common in the deep south, not only are never justifiable but are highly demoralizing socially. The spectacle of American white men, with generations of civilization behind them, turning back to the law of the jungle is discouraging and disheartening. Mobbers are cowards and one upstanding, determined officer with a good trigger finger can defy a hundred of such people.

It is seldom that leaders or members of these lawless gangs are apprehended or brought to trial, but when they are brought before the bar of justice rarely convicted. One reason is that those who know them take their lives into their own hands when they testify against them. There have been other instances, however, where members of the mob are known without those responsible raising a hand to prosecute them or vindicate the honor of the state and community. It is a wicked spirit and ill fares the land wherein it stalks.

BRISTOL, VA.
HERALD COURIER

JUN 26 1934

A Murder In Tennessee.

Negro leaders should strive constantly to impress upon the members of their race that they must be law-abiding, if for no other reason than that in the South, especially, it is dangerous for members of that race to commit even minor crimes. They are in danger not only of the law but of the lynching mob.

Perhaps Negro leaders undertake to do this. The fact that Negroes continue to commit crimes does not necessarily indicate that the leaders of the race are remiss in their duty to urge law-observance. There are criminally-inclined Negroes, just as there are criminally-inclined whites, who are not amenable to good influences.

The lynching mob is not unknown to Tennessee, but this State has just had another kind of mob murder, with a Negro as the victim. The outrage occurred near Manchester and was the result of a visit of a number of white men to a Negro dance. Press dispatches, without explaining what gave rise to the trouble, state that a Negro man at the dance slapped one of the white men.

The white men left the dance and went to the Negro's house and smashed its furnishings. They then returned to the dance, got the Negro, took him into the country, tore off his clothing, shot him three times, and battered his head with an axe. The body was carried to an oatfield where it was discovered next day.

Eight white men have been arrested and placed in jail at Manchester on the charge of murdering the Negro. If they are the guilty parties they should be punished to the limit of the law. If they are not, the guilty should be found and made to pay for the crime. This is one case in which there was absolutely no justification for the killing of a Negro by whites. They would have been no trouble had the white men remained away from a dance where they had no business. But they went to the dance, probably provoked an altercation, and then committed a deliberate murder for which the law fixes the penalty.

COLUMBIA, S. C.
RECORD

JUN 1 1 1934

One More Bit of Evidence.

At Bastrop, La., Andrew McLeod, a 26-year-old negro was lynched Monday night. It was a typical lynching, except for the fact that the victim was accused of attempting to attack a white girl—the crime which is used to excuse lynching, but seldom is the excuse for it.

It was like all lynchings a degrading and brutal affair. The first rope, tied about the negro's neck before he was pushed off the top of an automobile, broke. The mob's victim fell to the ground and some unidentified hero among the 300 who composed the band of lynchers ran up and slashed the negro's throat as if he had been a hog in pig-sticking time. The lynchers, securing a new and stronger rope, carried out their original intention none the less. McLeod was hanged. Then the crowd dispersed.

It was like all lynchings a useless thing. McLeod had been arrested and, according to officers, had confessed his crime. Any Louisiana jury would have convicted him. He would have been punished as the law provides and without delay. In Louisiana as in courts of other states delays are possible, but no negro, accused of attempted assault, would have benefitted from them.

The lynchers as usual met almost no opposition from the officers of the law charged with protecting the negro prisoner. Witnesses reported that the mob "formed quietly" and grew to such proportions that officers were "unable" to prevent the assault upon the jail and the negro's slaying. The chief of police was out of town for the night and Bastrop, it seems, boasts no night marshal at the jail. There were however, the sheriff and his deputies, who if they did not prevent the lynching did at least aid citizens in cutting down the negro's body. Lynchings in other towns and states have been prevented, but to prevent mob violence peace officers must be prepared to call for the militia and if need be to shoot. In Bastrop there was no shooting.

Nothing will be done about it as usual. "Authorities" of course are "investigating" the lynching. All lynchings are "investigated" but few of the investigations get anywhere.

And no good will come of it. Law enforcement isn't promoted by murder even though 300 men participate in it.

It merely supplies the proponents of a federal anti-lynching law with one more argument, one more bit of testimony.

West Monroe, La., Citizen
July 20, 1934

THE BASTROP LYNCHING

The Citizen declines to join with those who condemn the lynching of a negro in Bastrop last week. Lynching is opposed to statutory law and The Citizen does believe in law observance, but in the South lynching for the crime to which the negro in question confessed is the law of public opinion and it is a law that no Southerner need be ashamed of or apologize for.

Societies in Boston or New York that attempt to force the Southern people to surrender their principles of chivalry may prove annoying, but they can not prevent Southern men from protecting womanhood in the manner that befits Southern ideals and temperament.

There is one crime that is punishable in the South by death at the hands of the people and that penalty is exacted by the law of public opinion. In the South lynchings for that crime can not be stopped by statutory law but only by changing public opinion, and there is no indication that the law will ever be repealed.

MIAMI, FLA.
NEWS

MAY 6 - 1934

The Lynching Record

The two volumes of testimony taken at committee hearings on the federal anti-lynching bill tell little about the evil which has not been for many years common knowledge, but they focus emphasis on the one remedy which seems capable of exterminating it.

Mob law, these findings show, is not peculiar to any one section of the country. Neither are its victims members of a particular race or sex. In the total of 5,053 recorded lynchings since 1882 the lives of 1,438 whites and 3,513 negroes were taken. Women victims numbered 94. During the decade ending with 1928 there were 42 persons burned alive, 32 otherwise tortured before death. Lynchings last year claimed 28 victims, many of them since proved innocent. Practically without exception, the mobs went unpunished.

There has been some objection to a federal anti-lynching law on the ground that it would infringe state rights, yet local authorities have not shown themselves equal to the challenge. Last year there was actually the disgrace of a governor condoning this sort of crime. Even the valiant efforts of a few states failed to bring mob leaders to justice.

Kidnapers had fairly smooth sailing while fast automobiles enabled them quickly to escape local jurisdiction and take refuge beyond state lines. Since a federal law has put department of justice agents on the job most kidnapings have been speedily solved and the culprits not only captured but severely dealt with by the law. There is no reason to believe that a federal anti-lynching law would not have a similarly salutary effect.

"This bill does not propose an invasion or a subversion of the rights of states," says the sub-committee report. "On the contrary, the proposed legislation is an aid to the several states in assuring to their citizens the equal protection of the laws, both state and federal, to which all citizens are entitled." The states should urge and welcome favorable action by congress.

Birmingham, Ala:, News
March 2, 1934

RACIAL JUSTICE IS URGED BY EDITOR

Feidelson Deplores Lynchings In Birmingham-Southern College Address

Unless the indifference and squeamishness of the white people of the South disappears from their relations with Negroes, the white people will pay a bitter price in the future, declared Judge Charles N. Feidelson, associate editor of The Birmingham Age-Herald, in a talk Thursday in the chapel of Birmingham-Southern College.

Lynchings in the Southern states have increased in the year 1933 over the preceding year, and only a rational and constructive facing of the Negro problem can wipe out this blot, Judge Feidelson asserted. Public opinion and laxity of state officials are primarily causes of this disgrace, he said.

The race problem is not only a problem for the minority, Judge Feidelson maintained, but one for the majority. White people must face the Negro problem and solve it in a manner conforming with the dictates of humanity.

That there is a fight between the forces of conservatism and radicalism within the ranks of the Negroes themselves is not generally known, Judge Feidelson revealed, stating that the forces of radicalism may gain control, with disastrous results to whites, unless intelligent and humanitarian steps are taken.

Judge Feidelson maintained that the way to help solve the Negro problem is to give recognition to the educated and intelligent Negro leaders of the conservative forces and allow them to participate in community and national affairs.

Even now there is pending before Congress a bill which will take the handling of lynchers out of the hands of state authorities and put it in the hands of the federal government, said Judge Feidelson. And because the people of the South have been remiss in punishing lynchers, this bill has a very good chance of being passed.

"We must," asserted Judge Feidelson, "take recognition of justice without respect to color."

Frankfort, Ky. State Journal
August 9, 1934

NEGROES MOB NEGRO

In Caddo Parish, Louisiana, occurred one of the most remarkable lynchings on record.

Because of an alleged insult to a girl of his own race by a young Negro who was drunk, the alleged insulter was stripped naked by a mob of his own color and beaten to death with pine knots.

The demoniacal conduct of that moke would have made a moving picture that would have "stood 'em up" on Broadway.

In fact it would not be remarkable if a picture representing the scene should be made.

Imagine the deep forest of the deep South, perhaps a fat pine fire throwing its flickering glare upon the faces of a circle of avenging Negroes, as drunk as their victim perhaps, while the murder was being arranged.

Mobs know no law.

They kill for any purpose if only they are stirred to action by emotion.

Insult is not a capital offense under the laws of any country of which we have ever heard.

But a mob of Louisiana mauls a man to death for an alleged insult.

The incident is grotesquely horrible.

A perfectly sober mob probably is an exception, a drunken one the rule.

It is rare indeed that a mob's action records the sentiment of the more responsible element of the community in which the lynching occurs.

Mob leadership, and mob personnel, represent, no doubt, as a rule, the riff-raff of the neighborhood.

Music, Poetry and Art-1934

Lynchings-1934
Discussions.

White Press, Southern.

4531

LITTLE ROCK, ARK.
GAZETTE

FEB 20 1934

ARKANSAS AND ITS NO-LYNCHING RECORD.

It is particularly a matter for congratulation that Arkansas gained a place on the "honor roll" of states that had no lynchings during 1933, described by the Federal Council of Churches as "probably the worst year "in the crusade against the lynching "evil since 1922."

Nobody can say that Arkansas has definitely reached a condition where there will be no more lynchings. But every year that passes without a lynching is that much gain for the good name of Arkansas and for law and order within the state.

Last year there were 28 lynchings in 11 different states. But there were 37 instances in which officers prevented lynching mobs from accomplishing their purpose. The first line of defense against lynching is of course the officer of the law. He is the man who has to face and quell the mob or by his foresight and vigilance keep the intended victim from being exposed to mob violence. But the second and main line of defense is public opinion.

LYNCHBURG, VA.
NEWS

FEB 15 1934

IN THE "DEEP SOUTH"

In California a mob attacks a jail and takes two prisoners from their cells and lynches them. There is no resistance.

In Maryland a Negro is taken from prison over the resistance of state police and lynched to the usual accompaniment of sadistic revelries.

In Missouri a Negro is taken from prison over the resistance of the sheriff and lynched.

In Mississippi a mob seeks three Negroes for the purpose of lynching them. National guardsmen protect the prisoners and they are not lynched.

The explanation of the California affair is simple. The authorities make themselves a part of the mob They urge the mob on to mass murder and the governor, after compounding murder, praises the murderers. But what is the explanation of the success of the mobs in two border states and its failure in a far southern state? Are Mississippi mobs more cowardly than the ordinary run of mobs, or are the police and guardsmen more courageous? Or is it that Mississippi is more accustomed to handling mobs, or the authorities more vigilant?

Anyway there wasn't a lynching in Mississippi and we are spared bombastic announcements from high authorities about what is going to be done to bring the lynchers to justice.

How about a few dollars to the milk fund?

GREENSBORO, N. C.
RECORD

FEB 19 1934

PRESS COMMENT
Opinions of other Editors

In the "Deep South."

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SAVANNAH, GA.
NEWS

FEB 21 1934

LYNCHINGS VIEWED AS MENACE

Lynchings in 1933 reached proportions of a national menace with more victims than during any year since 1926 and with mob violence spreading into areas hitherto regarded as immune, according to a report issued by the Federal Council of Churches. In the new outbreak of lynching most of the victims, as usual, were negroes, the report shows. Of the twenty-eight persons killed by mobs last year four were white men.

"The year 1933 was probably the worst year in the crusade against the lynching evil since 1922," the Federal Council reported. Conspicuously among the states witnessing a lynching revival was California, which had not had a lynching since 1920. The report condemns the action of Gov. James Rolph, Jr., in condoning the San Jose lynchings in December and added: "For the first time in the history of the evil a governor of a sovereign state publicly expressed his approval of the lynchers and his acquiescence in their crime before the act."

One bright spot in the picture, according to the Federal Council, is the report of "thirty-seven instances in which officers of the law prevented lynchings." State and local police forestalled only thirty-one hangings in 1932. The council calls for more adequate anti-lynching legislation and additional "self-control" by the public in dealing with criminal suspects. President Roosevelt's "scathing arraignment" of lynchers and their abettors and the introduction of the Costigan-Wagner federal anti-lynching bill were hailed by the council as "indications that the public conscience has been stirred afresh by this national menace."

Last year lynch law invaded eleven states, claiming twenty-eight victims, twenty more than in 1932. States where persons were lynched last year were Alabama, California, Georgia, Louisiana, Maryland, Mississippi, Missouri, North Carolina, South Carolina, Tennessee and Texas. Only five states, all in New England, never had a lynching, according to the Federal Council of Churches. They are Connecticut, Massachusetts, New Hampshipe, Rhode Island and Vermont.

BIRMINGHAM, ALA.
NEWS

FEB 25 1934

CONTROLLING LYNCHING

Lynching is abhorrent. Right-minded citizens of America, everywhere, will feel that way about it. It represents a shameless prostitution of law and government.

Whether a federal ordinance against this form of madness will prevent it, or even tone it down, is questionable.

And such a law will be presented to the present Congress. In fact, hearings upon the Costigan-Wagner bill, which would make lynching a federal offense, open this week.

That measure proposes, for one thing, a fine of $5,000 or imprisonment up to five years, or both, for any state or local official charged with the protection of prisoner and who fails "to make all diligent efforts" to protect him from injury at the hands of a mob.

Similarly harsh action would be taken against any official of government who is lax in the arrest or prosecution of any member of a lynching bee, and any county in which a lynching occurs will be subjected to a fine of $10,000.

One can observe at a glance that, for the most part, all of this is a mere agglomeration, and only adds to the provisions and measures which the majority of all the states have set in motion on their own account to handle this difficult problem.

It is just as commonplace to note, also, that if the processes of the laws of the states are ineffective in arriving at the objective in mind, so, also, will be the laws of the federal government.

If jurors in state courts fall down on their job of taking proper measure of those guilty of lynching crimes, jurors in federal courts, who come from the same territory and share similar views, will have the same deficiency.

Southern senators killed a similar measure in 1922 after it had passed the House. They used the filibuster and will probably use it again to defeat the new proposal. They took the position that the control of the lynching passion is a matter wholly for the states and that the federal government ought to keep its hand off.

The elimination of this evil, as has been already clearly and effectively demonstrated, just as the elimination of many other crimes against law and order and society, does not lie altogether within the province of jurisprudence.

The reason the courts fall down in proper and efficient handling of this evil is because of the flabby sentiment among the people. Once that is set right, concerted and dynamic and determined motion against lynching, it can be blotted out.

But by laws alone—never!—Charlotte Observer.

Tallahassee, Fla. Democrat
February 5, 1934

Florida's Lynching Shame

As more facts come to light in connection with the so-called lynching of a negro at Tampa, it becomes apparent that it was not a lynching at all but a murder, accomplished through the unofficial acts of an unauthorized person, assuming the duties of an officer.

If the story of the "deputy constable" is true, he can be blamed only for his unofficial act, in obtaining custody of the prisoner and removing him without orders from one jail to another.

But even so, he has much to explain.

Why was he acting as constable when the district has no such official authorized? Why did he remove the prisoner from jail? Why did he go to the jail at the unusual hour of early morning? How did the small band of persons he said overpowered him, know there was to be such a transfer?

But from all that is known here, only the word of the unofficial "deputy constable" substantiates the claim that he was overpowered at all, that there was a mob, that the suspect confessed.

Use of the term lynching with any distinction from murder, implies that it is the act of a large body of the populace, discontented with the slow wheels of justice, taking a short cut to enforcement of moral laws and acting preferably with some semblance of order and some attempt to establish guilt.

According to the "deputy constable's" own story, the lynching party consisted of a small band of men in a few automobiles.

Lynching is seldom, if ever, justified, never when courts are open and functioning. But if there is a distinction, and lynching is to be classed a little above first degree murder, then this does not appear to be an instance of it.

Florida impatiently awaits a thorough airing of the shameful Tampa affair.

BIRMINGHAM, ALA.
AGE HERALD
[illegible]

Significant

If lynching is to be stamped out, Southerners will do it. That fact makes the condemnation of lynching by the Woman's Missionary Council of the Methodist Church, South, a very significant development. When 1,000 women, representing every part of this section, are willing to speak out so ringingly against lynching, against the immunity which lynchers have enjoyed, against the weakness of courts when dealing with participants in mob violence, we may be sure that forces are stirring in this region which shall yet succeed in wiping out this darkest blot upon our life.

The resolution approved by the Missionary Council Monday stated that 3,781 persons have been lynched since 1889, and that only 12 lynchers have been convicted for their offenses. The statistical argument might have been carried a little farther. It might have been shown that lynching has become a Southern and a racial affair. It might have been shown that in less than one-sixth of the 3,781 lynchings had the charge of rape been lodged.

If courts have been weak, if lynchers have not been tried or, have gone scot free, the real responsibility rests upon public opinion, which in the past has been indifferent or acquiescent, which in any event has not given the authorities, whether officials or judges, the support to which they were entitled. That condition is changing. A new attitude is making itself felt among us. The lyncher defending the white womanhood of the South is now being denounced by his ward.

Columbia. S. C. Record
May 7, 1934

Education Is Not All.

The women's clubs of South Carolina, surprising no one who has even a passing acquaintance with their work and thinking, have formally recorded themselves as opposed to lynching. Meeting last week at Spartanburg the South Carolina Federation of Women's clubs adopted a resolution condemning lynching:

"Believing that the crime of lynching undermines all ideals of government and religion which we hold sacred and which we try to implant into the minds of our youth, and recognizing that all lynching will be defended so long as the public generally accepts the assumption that it is for the protection of white women;

"Therefore we would go on record as endorsing the educational program against lynching of the Southern Association for the Prevention of Lynching and joining a campaign against such violations of law and civilization, and the teachings of religion."

Women, not being permitted to serve on juries in South Carolina, are handicapped in any campaign against lynching or for that matter any other form of lawlessness. Ultimately the juries control. The first step in curbing lynching is the conviction and punishment of lynchers; the men who run in mobs do not care to risk electrocution or prison. Concerning this the women can do little.

But the women can vote and they should not limit their efforts to educational endeavors. They might for example use the ballot to see to it that as county and state officers are elected men who believe that the law should be enforced against all criminals.

◆

William Phillip Simmons calls Chinese Turkestan the country that God forgot." Maybe that's where the forgotten man will be found.

Journal Guide
Norfolk
12-1-34

Why The Indifference?

THE REVELATIONS made by an investigator for the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People into the unprecedentedly horrible lynching of CLAUDE NEAL in Florida, summarized in news reports in the JOURNAL AND GUIDE this week and last week, give ample ground for some vigorous action by either state or federal officials, or both. That is, if there were not already sufficient evidence.

As the climax of its findings, the N. A. A. C. P. has just furnished the U. S. Department of Justice and the governors of Florida and Alabama very definite clues to the identity of the leaders of the mob which kidnaped and killed NEAL in the interstate atrocity of October.

Sentiment is growing, noticeably among southern white leaders, for an effective federal anti-lynching law that will put a crimp in lynching as the Lindbergh law has in kidnaping. Sentiment is still stronger for federal intervention under existing statutes.

Of course there is still a strong segment of public opinion that opposes for various reasons any federal action against the crime of mob lynching. The Negro himself hopes and is working for any kind of control over the strictly American savagery which puts the lives of innocent and guilty equally in danger and denies the constitutional guarantees of a fair trial.

Laws are no more effective, however, than the public opinion that backs them. In an immediate case, they are no stronger than the officials sworn to enforce them. We doubt that a federal law will be very effective while Attorney General CUMMINGS heads the Department of Justice. He has steadfastly shown the most callous indifference to this blot on American civilization, and has actively opposed measures to curb it.

The hope is that once the law is passed, it can be made operative and effective. One consoling thought is that there have been and there will be again men in the office of the U. S. Attorney General who will do their full sworn duty willingly. Every effort will be decidedly worthwhile that has as its aims the strengthening and spreading of public opinion in the states themselves against the crime of lynching. Virginia's anti-lynching law has worked so far to reduce the tendency to permit lynchings. More state laws will help. A federal law certainly wouldn't hurt. Against crimes like lynching, the double check of state and federal laws seems absolutely necessary.

The one end in view that should not be forgotten is that lawlessness, particularly as exhibited by lynching mobs, must end.

Lynchings-1934

Discussion-

White Press, Southern.

4532

Shreveport, La., Journal
November 6, 1934

Obnoxious Meddlers.

The lynching of a negro, Claud Neal, near Greenwood, Fla., is being vigorously denounced in newspapers all over the country—as it should be. The action of the mob was unnecessary and inexcusable, heinous though the crime for which the black was put to death, and it was made all the more atrocious by reason of the fact that it was advertised for several hours in advance of the actual killing; the mobsters kept their intended victim in hiding throughout the daylight hours, waiting for nightfall to carry out their vengeance.

This particular case is regrettable, also, because it has furnished another opportunity for obnoxious meddling on the part of the International Labor Defense, an organization which has on more than one occasion sought to interfere with the administration of justice by the courts in Southern States. In the Florida lynching, International Labor Defense has wired President Roosevelt asking a federal investigation, and sent another telegram to Governor Sholtz of Florida demanding "immediate removal, indictment and punishment with the death penalty of Sheriff Chambliss of Jackson county, for complicity and the same punishment for all other individuals and officials implicated."

That there are members of congress who are impressed with these impudent demands of meddlesome Mollies, is unfortunate—but it is a fact. For now comes Representative Emanuel Celler, elected as a Democrat from Brooklyn, with the announcement that he will ask the judiciary committee, of which he is a ranking member, to speedily report a measure to make lynching a crime punishable by death. He would have trial of such cases turned over to the federal courts, and also would make counties in which lynchings occur responsible for money damages—also to be awarded after trial in a federal court.

Representative Celler, it strikes us, is as ignorant as International Labor Defense is impudent, if he entertains the delusion that trial in a federal court would be any different from a trial in the state courts; the judges of federal courts and the jurors who sit on cases there are the same sort of men as those who administer justice in other tribunals. The remedy for the lynching evil is not in federal legislation, which if forced upon the South by bigots of the Celler brand, would only make matters worse. The cure is in education, not only for those who take the law into their own hands under great provocation, but for those who commit brutal and inhuman crimes. And in the meantime, there is no place in this part of the country for International Labor Defense, as it is constituted, since it has nothing whatsoever to do with labor, but confines itself to attempts to regulate matters in which it has no concern.

Tuscaloosa, Ala., News
November 9, 1934

Press Comment Of The Day

(The Selma Times-Journal)

THOSE who are fondly looking to the enactment of an anti-lynching bill by Congress as providing a panacea for this hitherto irrepressible evil and blight on our civilization would very probably be sadly disillusioned and disappointed in this remedial measure when invoked, because it would prove as abortive as prosecutions now are in our state courts. The personnel of the jury in Federal court differs very little from the jury in the state court, and would be responsive to the potent influences of sentiment and prejudice which now sway these bodies in the state courts and make them so ineffective as law-enforcing agencies.

No plan has ever been evolved for applying the law which dispenses with the jury, and lynching trials in the South will always be farcial so long as ultimate appeal must be made to the jury. The stream cannot be made to rise above its source. The jury whether in Federal or state court, will be the weak plaything of an aroused and dominant opinion in any Southern community where a lynching has occurred and feeling runs high. To punish lynchers some newborn scheme must have developed to dispense with jury trials.

Birmingham, Ala. Post
November 9, 1934

Is This Kidnaping Illegal?

Claude Neal, a negro, was taken by a mob from the Brewton jail, dragged across the state line and lynched in the woods near Marianna, Fla.

The Justice Department says that the Lindbergh kidnaping law does not give it power to prosecute members of the mob.

The Lindbergh law says that punishment shall be inflicted upon all persons found guilty of transporting across a state line "any person who shall have been unlawfully seized, confined, inveigled, decoyed, kidnaped, abducted or carried away by any means whatsoever and held for ransom or reward or otherwise."

Claude Neal was not "confined," nor "inveigled," nor "decoyed." He was not held for "ransom," nor for "reward." Decidedly not.

But Claude Neal was "unlawfully seized" from the custody of Alabama authorities. He was "kidnaped." He was "abducted." He was "carried away." And he was held "otherwise" than for ransom or reward. Decidedly so.

The lawyers of the Justice Department say, in effect, that the kidnapers of Claude Neal wiped out their identity as kidnapers when they became the lynchers of Claude Neal. They say, in effect, that although the federal government punishes kidnapers who try to extort money from the family of the victim, it does not punish kidnapers who merely take the life of the victim.

According to this, the mob members would have incurred the wrath of the federal government had they held him alive and unharmed, demanding that his family pay $100—which is probably more than the family possesses—for his release. But since the mob tortured him, hanged him, and ghoulishly mutilated and exhibited his body, they purged themselves of any violation of the federal law.

If that is the law, it is a travesty of justice. At least, the Justice Department should [illegible] the law in the courts.

Dade City, Fla., Banner
November 9, 1934

MUCH ADO ABOUT THE JACKSON COUNTY LYNCHING

Florida is getting a "bad break" in publicity and unfair criticism from a large section of the national press as a result of the recent Jackson county lynching. The critics are freely stating that the negro attacker and slayer of a young white girl was arrested merely on suspicion. The facts are: Claude Neal, the negro lynched sent for the girl to get information about some pigs that were to be cared for on her father's farm. Shortly afterwards the father found the body of his daughter. Footprints from the scene of the murder and criminal attack lead to the negro's home. Officers found a piece of "U" shaped cloth torn from a shirt at the scene of the crime, which indicated a struggle. This piece of cloth fitted perfectly into a torn shirt found at the negro's home, and which some of his women-folk had hastily attempted to laundry to remove blood stains.

Every effort will be made by law enforcement officers to ascertain the names of the persons forming the lynching party, and endeavor to get grand jury indictments. Few believe, in our opinion, that it will be possible to get a conviction either in Jackson county or any county in the South, in the event of a change of venue. The long drawn-out delays in Alabama, growing out of the famous or rather infamous, Scottsboro case, coupled with the horribleness of the Neal negro's crime, was believed to have had a strong influence with this negro's punishment.

John H. Carter, father of State's Attorney Carter of the Jackson county circuit, writing in a recent issue of the Marianna Floridian, may or may not express the sentiments of a lynching party. He said: "In the South, in Reconstruction days, lynching was resorted to as a swift punishment of crime, and is with us today. But it is now confined to practically one offense, and only one punishment, death. As hard as we try to wipe it out, it remains with us. It is going to remain, undoubtedly, until civil government is made stronger, and public sentiment is educated to demand legal punishment only, for all crimes. It is one thing to say 'let the law take its course' and another for men to stand emotionless in the presence of a crime that staggers humanity. Lynch law is deplorable. But civil institutions must be strenthened greatly before they will supplant the lynching evil. Lynch law is a challenge to the weakness of legal procedure. If the Scottsboro case is a living example of 'the law take its course' the outlook for suppression of lynching any time soon is dismal."

The Banner has information that Oscar DePriest, negro Chicago congressman, has advised Attorney General Landis by wire, that he was going to demand a Federal investigation. We did not learn if Mr. Landis replied to the negro politician, who was refused admittance to the lunch room at Washington during the last session of Congress, because there were still men in the Congress who insisted that the whites and negroes be seggregated, but we sincerely hope that he purposely ignored DePriest's wire. DePriest, who comes from a Chicago district, populated with negroes and foreigners, is up for reelection, and is merely making a play to the grand stand, seeking negro votes and the element of low class foreign voters, who mix and mingle with the Ethiopians. A true negro, is as proud of his descent as any white man, and refuses to associate with anyone but his own kind of blood and descent. Such negroes as DePriest are a menace to the negro race, and a majority of the true Africans realize this to be a fact.

We can better explain just what we mean by relating a story told to us by a Dade City negro. This negro, lives in Dade City now, and realizes that the white man is the negro's best friend; he realizes that the South is where the negro belongs. He stated to us that several years ago, he was promised a "position" in a Northern city. His transportation was paid. Among many of the attractions offered him was that there was no color line drawn in that state, he would have the same chance to advance with this company as any person, whit or black. He was finally persuaded to accept their offer, and after working several weeks, (which he described as considerably worse than at any time in the South during the slavery period) he paid to the company his transportation, quit, and started "back home." In those days automobiles were few, hitch-hiking was unknown, and he tramped it. After sleeping out for weeks at night, and nearly starving to death, not even knowing what state he was in, he went to the front door of a residence, knocked, with the intention of asking for some cold bread. A white man answered the door, and asked him "what in the hell are you knocking on my front door for. Get to the back, you black rascal. The negro, threw up his hands, and said "Thank God, I will be fed now, I am in the South, where all negroes belong." This statement was made to the writer by Louis Rhodes, commonly called Black Jack, who has toured the United States as end man for a minstrel show. Louis realizes that the South is the negroes' country and the white man his true friend. To compare Louis Rhodes with a negro like DePriest would be as to compare The American Flag with the red flag of communism.

Orange, Va., Review
November 8, 1934

FROM THE HERMITAGE

Mobs in Florida have added a social feature to the institution of lynching. Recently they issued invitations to all white people around the village of Greenwood to attend the torture and hanging of the assailant of a young girl. This is a new note in an old American custom. Hitherto, members of such parties have performed their patriotic duties with very little fanfare. They have been content with the satisfaction that comes from the knowledge of unselfish service to race and country, doing their duties as citizens without desire for fame or reward. Once they had accomplished their dangerous but necessary task they sank into an obscurity so complete that local sheriffs could not ever discover to whom the grateful citizenry owed their salvation. Alas! the spirit of the times has corrupted even the patriotic souls of the lynchers. Perhaps we should not judge them too harshly, however, what with the publicity that bathing beauties, hog-callers, Miss Americas, gangsters, kidnapers and other prominent Americans are being accorded by the public it is natural that these defenders of order and white supremacy should feel that it was time to overcome their native modesty and get their share of the limelight. Hence the recent invitations. We should not smile at their initial efforts. In time their technique will improve. They will issue engraved invitations with "R. S. V. P." in one corner, there will be music, flashlight photographs and speeches. Later, a committee will select the most outstanding members of the lynching party to go on a vaudeville tour or to enter Hollylywood. Still later they will write their memors with "Twenty Years a Public Servant" as a title perhaps.

Rocky Mount, N. C., Telegram
November 21, 1934

Advice To Lynchers

A full confession has been obtained from a young colored man in Virginia, according to the statements of authorities, that he killed two little white girls after he had criminally attacked one of them. The brutality of the crime is sickening, unbelievable. A group of enraged citizens in the community burned his home and would have dealt summary justice to him had the opportunity been afforded. But Virginia officers acted promptly. The prisoner was removed from his community immediately after his arrest. Now he is held safely in Richmond, and a trial will follow as rapidly as possible. Under the circumstances there is no reason why the trial should not be brief and why the full penalty under the law for this crime should not be exacted shortly after sentence is passed.

The manner in which Virginia officers acted in conducting the prisoner to a place of safety after a hideous crime, the brutality of which is more shocking than any of recent date, is thoroughly commendable. Authorities in Alabama and Florida, where invitations were recently dispatched to citizens to attend a lynching and where thousands—including women and children—gathered, are given an excellent opportunity to contrast the difference between an orderly process for handling criminals and the wild orgies of lynching parties.

This colored man, although it is quite reasonable to believe that he is a person of low mentality, has demonstrated his unfitness in such a manner that no appeal that his life should be spared can be very convincing. When he is electrocuted, and he will be if his confession stands in court and he is found guilty, he will be just as dead as the mutilated, tortured Negro who went to death at the hands of a mob in Florida. What satisfaction the Florida community reaped from the lynching is a mystery. We know the satisfaction that law-abiding citizens get from the commendable manner in which sworn peace officers live up to their obligations. There were no unguarded jails for mobs to sweep down upon. There were no opportunities for a lynching.

Knoxville, Tenn., News-Sentinel
November 12, 1934

Kidnaping and Lynching

IN Arizona Federal agents have arrested Oscar Robson, dude rancher, and charged him with extortion in connection with the kidnaping of 6-year-old-old June Robles a year ago.

In Oregon the Federals are rounding up other suspects in the kidnaping case of Charles Urschel last August. Already 17 persons have been captured as part of the ring that hoped to profit from the $250,000 ransom money paid for this Oklahoma millionaire's release.

Since Congress passed the Lindbergh law 29 major kidnapings have occurred. Apart from the Robles case only two of these—the Hamm and Bremer cases in St. Paul—remain unsolved. The kidnaper of Mrs. Stoll, while unapprehended, is known. Kidnapers and extortionists are serving a total of IIII years in payment for their crimes.

Thus surely the Federal government's hand reaches for these cowardly criminals.

Apparently it is powerless or unwilling to reach for the mobs that openly seize and lynch their victims before the very eyes of the law they defy. The recent interstate kidnap lynching in Florida is a reminder that mobs continue to carry on their brutal work unhampered. Last year they lynched 28 persons. This year so far they have lynched 17. In the past five years there have been 94 lynchings in 20 states.

In his message to Congress last session President Roosevelt included lynching with crimes "that call on the strong arm of the government for their immediate suppression." Despite a favorable committee report the Costigan-Wagner anti-lynching bill was smothered in the session's closing days.

The Federal government, so effective in stamping out kidnaping, should have and use similar powers to curb lynching.

BRISTOL, VA.
HERALD COURIER

AUG 15 19[illegible]

Two More Lynchings.

There has been a double lynching in Benton County, Mississippi. The outrage was perpetrated by two separate mobs but the victims were hanged to the same tree. Both were negroes who were accused of the murder of a white man more than a year ago.

The trial of the two Negroes was to have started Monday in Circuit Court at Ashland. They had been confined in different jails in other parts of the county and officers were taking them to Ashland. In each case the officers were stopped by a dozen or more masked men, the prisoners were seized, and the mobs came together and put them to death.

For these lynchings, as for all others, there was no defense or excuse. The Negroes were in the hands of the law and on their way to court. If they were guilty, there could have been no doubt as to the fate that was in store for them. If they were not guilty, they had as much right to live as other innocent men.

The Sheriff says he is going to do his best to find the guilty parties, and the District Attorney says he is going to see that a rigid investigation is made. These statements sound familiar. Two more accused persons have been deprived of life without due process of law, in violation of all the principles of justice and of the American Constitution, and it may be too much to hope that something will be done about it.

That is why Congress will yet, and probably at an early day, enact a Federal anti-lynching law. It is protested that such legislation would infringe on State rights. But States have no right to bow to mob rule, and if they and their Governors are so strongly against a Federal law designed to prevent and to punish mob murders they can make it unnecessary as well as undesirable.

Lynchings-1934
Discussions.

White Press, Southern

4533

TAMPA, FLA.
TRIBUNE

OCT 29 1934

Florida "Stages" A Lynching

Florida seized the ugliest spot in many years of the nation's lynching picture, with the Jackson county horror.

Jackson county offered a novelty—a "staged" lynching. It had all the features of tragic theatricalism. Messengers went through the country giving the "advance notices"—inviting all the "white folks" to come and see the "show." In response, thousands gathered, coming in 800 cars, in other conveyances, on foot. They waited for the arrival of the "dramatis personae"—hungry for the "kill."

The "audience" was partly disappointed. The lynchers, who had taken their victim from an Alabama jail, killed him before they reached the scene of the promised "performance." All the eager invited guests got to see was the body, riddled with bullets, mutilated with knives, swung from a tree in Marianna's courthouse square, for exhibition purposes—a gory spectacle to satisfy the morbid curiosity of the crowds that had hoped to see the death but had to be content with post-mortem gloating. The lynchers showed, at least, some degree of restraint—they killed their victim in private, "behind the scenes" as it were, instead of, as promised, "in full view of the audience."

Ample notice was given the authorities of the intentions of the mob. There can be no excuse of lack of warning, unpreparedness. The Governor was notified of the prospect, at Arcadia, received appeals from organizations. He acted promptly in notifying the Jackson county Sheriff that he would authorize calling out the troops if the Sheriff deemed it necessary to prevent the lynching. The Sheriff replied that he could "take care" of the situation. How he "took care" of it is tragically told by the body swaying from the Marianna tree.

Florida's recent comparatively good record in avoidance or prevention of lynchings has been rudely despoiled. What is to be done about it?

GREENVILLE, N. C.
REFLECTOR

OCT 27 1934

MOB VIOLENCE

The lynching in Florida last night of course was a terrible affair and naturally that State and the authorities of the Alabama jail from which the negro was taken by the mob will be severely criticized, but after all isn't one of the underlying causes of mob violence due to the fact that a great number of people have lost confidence in the ability of the courts to mete out justice. Personally we do not believe in mob violence, for any frenzied mob out for blood will stop at no ends and seldom is justice done at the hands of a mob, but after all if the people had the assurance that the courts would mete out swift justice with sure punishment for the offenders wouldn't there be less mob violence in this country? The slow movement of our courts in a great many instances together with the uncertainty that the punishment will be carried out even after ordered by the courts is, we believe, one of the underlying causes of mob action in dealing with some criminals.

Sanford, Fla. Herald
October 31, 1934

Lynch Law

One reason for such violent outbursts of mob emotion as disgraced the State of Florida the other day when a negro was lynched near Marianna is the failure of the juries and the courts to convict and provide adequate sentences when guilty parties are brought before them.

"Two men robbed and killed two aged women in their rural home near Quincy," says the Tampa Tribune. "The crime had no extenuating circumstances. It was premeditated, brutal, unprovoked.

"One of the men was convicted of first degree murder, but the jury tenderly granted that mercy which the slayers didn't show to their helpless victims. He got off with life imprisonment. The other murderer was allowed to plead guilty to manslaughter, got 10 years.

"Human life is too cheap in Florida."

In the Marianna case, a negro had raped and killed a girl. No chances were taken that he might escape punishment. He was promptly seized and strung up. It is mob law. It is primitive. But what can you expect?

Chattanooga, Tenn.
NEWS

OCT 30 1934

Murder as Predicted

HUNDREDS of persons arrived in Greenwood, Fla., last Friday night. They had been invited to attend a lynching. "All white persons cordially invited" said the mob which seized a Negro.

These guests didn't know exactly how the murder would be done—whether there would be a burning at the stake or a hanging. Possibly most of them hoped for the burning, it being a more spectacular and a more savage method. At any rate, it was an unusual experience to be invited to a lynching. It suggests a new title for a thriller for those authors who have run out of ways to use the word "murder" in a title. Why not "murder as predicted."

The Governor of Florida notified the sheriff of the county that he would send troops if needed. But the sheriff replied that he didn't think they were needed; that the county authorities could handle the situation. After this, of course, it should have been obvious to anyone that the mob's al fresco party would come off as scheduled, rain or shine.

The guests assembled at the farm home of the girl whom the Negro is said to have attacked. It had been announced that the Negro would be brought there and killed. However, he was killed beforehand and then brought before the guests. As they looked on, a number of shots were fired into the victim's dead body. Knives further mutilated the corpse, and it was carried into Marianna, where it was swung from a tree in the courthouse square.

Many of the people who were guests at the party have, in the past no doubt, described to their children how Nero and fellow Romans gathered in the Coliseum to witness the barbarities. The parents and the children no doubt shuddered to think how the Romans looked on as gladiators fought to the death. A bloodthirsty lot, those ancient Romans.

There was this difference. Occasionally Nero did turn his thumbs up, indicating that killing was off the schedule for that particular afternoon. We find no evidence anywhere, that the rulers of the county in which this Florida party was given turned their thumbs to avert the lynching.

Ft. Myers Fla., Press
October 30, 1934

THE MARIANNA LYNCHING

Aspersions on the authorities for failure to prevent the Marianna lynching do not seem to be merited. If they did not do all they could they at least went through the necessary motions and it will be hard to prove, as some allege, that they made it convenient for the mob to get its victim.

On the contrary it appears that Sheriff Chambliss of Jackson county took due precautions to protect his prisoner and actually succeeded for a week in keeping the man out of the hands of determined pursuers. After the body of Lola Cannidy had been found and the negro Claude Neal taken into custody, there were rumors of violence and the sheriff at once obtained court authorization to move the man to the jail at Chipley, in adjoining Washington county.

Learning that the negro had been taken from Marianna and suspecting that he was being held in a neighboring county, agents of the mob started a thorough search of nearby jails. Hearing that they were on their way to Chipley Sheriff Chambliss telephoned a warning and Neal was saved by the ruse of dressing him in women's clothing and holding him in the 'women's quarters. After visiting jails at Cottondale, Panama City and others in the vicinity the lynchers learned they had been tricked at Chipley and again headed for that place. Chambliss got his man away just ahead of them and took the prisoner to Pensacola. Mob leaders followed and to forestall trouble the sheriff there had Neal transferred across the state line to Brewton, Ala.

That was early last week. For a time it seemed to stop the Floridians who were after the negro. But the story soon spread along the border and Alabamans learned the man was at Brewton. They got in touch with the Florida leaders and before daylight last Friday morning the negro was plucked from the Brewton jail by a crowd of some 100 persons.

Complications then ensued to baffle the authorities on both sides of the line. The mob held the negro in Alabama out of reach of Florida officials and as the Brewton sheriff had been advised he had no legal right to accept the prisoner in the first place he apparently decided that the kidnaping was good riddance. At any rate he didn't do anything about it, leaving mob leaders with all day Friday to spread the word that there would be a lynching that night at the Cannidy home in Florida.

Sheriff Chambliss felt he could prevent that and when news of the "invitation lynching" reached Tallahassee he informed the governor's office that he wouldn't need troops. As it turned out he was right about that. The whole Florida national guard couldn't have prevented the slaying because it appears that the negro was killed early Friday night and the body then brought across the state line to the Cannidy home before being strung up at dawn in front of the court house at Marianna.

The Dothan, Ala., Eagle carried a detailed account of the lynching, its reporters evidently having been present. It was atrocious, beyond words, as was the crime to which the negro confessed. Neal told the sheriff at Brewton that after departing from the scene of assault "I got to thinking I had done played the devil and she was half dead anyhow so I went back and killed her."

It is doubtful if the law anywhere is a match for the human emotions stirred by such a story. It explains, if it cannot condone, the dogged pursuit and savage retribution which ensued.

NEW ORLEANS, LA.
ITEM

NOV 1 1934

Lynch Law

FLORIDIANS and Alabamians who still cherish "State Rights" will have only themselves to blame if the next Congress substitutes Federal procedure for State prosecution of lynchers. The sequel to the Claude Neal hanging in Florida, after his seizure by a mob in Alabama, is widespread criticism of the authorities in both states. Telegrams are published by Senator Wagner of New York and Senator Costigan of Colorado, co-authors of an anti-lynching bill submitted to the last Congress. Senator Wagner:

> "The imperative need for a Federal anti-lynching bill becomes more apparent daily. It is my determination to reintroduce immediately upon the conventing of Congress in January the anti-lynching bill which Senator Costigan and I endeavored to get through Congress last session, and I confidently expect its enactment at the coming session. . . ."

State Rights, as our fathers used to expound them, have been passing a long time. Few regional statesmen heed the warning. Had every state in the South, or even half of them, enacted and enforced good laws of their own against lynching the Federal government would not today be called on to assume the police duties which properly belong to local government. Senators Wagner and Costigan will have a better chance of passing their bill in the next Congress than in the last because those who most loudly proclaim their right to run their own affairs insist upon abusing that right.

Tallahassee, Fla. Democrat
November 1, 1934

Final Check Up On Marianna Lynching

Today, in the governor's office, the final chapter in the Marianna lynching case was written.

A complete record of the case was presented in written form and supplemented by oral statements by Sheriff Flake Chambliss, State Attorney John Carter and State Senator Hayes Lewis.

It was brought out at the hearing that the sheriff and state attorney had used every effort to protect the prisoner, having him transported from jail to jail and finally lodged in Alabama, 200 miles from Jackson county.

Sheriff Chambliss said, in his opinion, the negro was lynched in Alabama. Senator Lewis said he believed there were but about a half dozen men in the party returning to Jackson county. Deputies were on the lookout at the Alabama line, the sheriff said.

A few men in one or two cars with perhaps the body of the victim concealed on the floor could pass into the state and county unnoticed and this is the explanation given.

In the face of these explanations and the opinion of Colonel Coombs that troops could not have prevented the lynching, it is not easy to fix the blame, if any.

The governor's office offered every assistance to the law enforcement officers of Jackson county the afternoon before the body of the negro was found on a tree in the courthouse yard. At that time Sheriff Chambliss assured the governor's office that he required no aid from troops or otherwise.

It must be borne in mind that the military, under the constitution, is called out "in aid of the civil authority" and when the civil authority requires no aid, it cannot be given.

CHARLOTTE, N. C.
NEWS

OCT 28 1934

Lynching By Appointment

At about three o'clock Friday morning a mob stormed the jail at Brewton, Alabama. With little difficulty they convinced a deputy sheriff on duty there that he had best fall in with their plans, and he delivered to them, not unreadily, the Negro for whom they had come. At once they placed the black in the first of a procession of 30 cars, each with license plates, and set off for a Florida destination which they had no fear of disclosing.

Thus was the State of Florida put on notice that a lynching was about to be committed openly and brazenly within its boundaries. Especially did the sheriff of Jackson county, Florida, have reason to believe that prompt action on his part was required if he was to do his duty as he had sworn to do it.

Fully 24 hours later, the Negro was delivered in accordance with the prearrangements of the mob, except that he was lifeless and mutilated. appropriately, his body was strung up in the square of the courthouse of Jackson county, Florida.

Appropriately we say for the reason that the sheriff of Jackson county is fully as guilty of murder as the mobsmen who fired the shots and plunged the knives which actually killed the Negro.

Lynchings-1934
&
Discussions.

White Press, Southern.

4534

SAVANNAH, GA.
NEWS

JUN 11 1934

THE LOUISIANA LYNCHING

The number of lynchings in the South thus far in 1934 has been increased to seven by the action of a mob at Bastrop, La., which stormed the city jail Monday night, took out a 26-year-old negro, suspected of attempting to assault a white girl, and hanged him to an oak tree in the public square. He was lifted onto the top of an automobile, the rope was tied about his neck and the car driven out from under him. The sheriff, who with two deputies arrived during the raid, is reported to have pleaded with the members of the mob to "go on home," but they swept past him and battered locks off four jail doors to reach the negro's cell.

The alleged assault is reported to have occurred Saturday night. The girl and her escort were returning from a dance when their automobile ran into a ditch. The girl had started afoot towards a filling station when the negro is reported to have seized her, but was frightened away by another approaching automobile. The sheriff, who said the negro confessed to the crime, said he understood the girl's escort was too drunk to go for assistance when the car was ditched.

Thus far this year Georgia's name has not been marred with an outbreak of mob law. There were six lynchings in the South for the first six months of 1934, according to figures compiled by the department of records and research at Tuskegee Institute, Alabama. This was two less than for the same period in 1933, and one more than for the first six months of 1932. The record for 1934 shows that all the persons lynched were negroes. The six lynchings up to July 1 occurred in Florida, Kentucky, Mississippi, Tennessee and Texas.

Hope continues that Georgia's non-lynching record may be kept spotless for the remainder of the year, at least. A commendable move toward provision for expediting the trials of all criminal cases was taken by the Georgia Bar Association at its recent convention at Sea Island Beach and it is believed that the results of this movement will have a salutary effect in curbing the mob spirit. Slow movement of the wheels of justice has been one of the worst factors to contend with in the efforts to counteract the temptation of indignant citizens to take the law into their own hands.

Post
[illegible] Ala.

Congratulations Tuscaloosa

Tuscaloosa county, scene of mob violence and center of nation-wide criticism for a double lynching a few months ago now offers a shining example of how swiftly justice can be administered when the orderly processes of the law are permitted to take their course.

Within 48 hours from the time of an attempted attack upon a young university student the guilty person had been arrested, indicted, sentenced after a plea of guilty and placed behind the bars of Kilby prison for a term of 20 years.

How much better, how much more sane and civilized was the handling of this latest case.

During the search for the guilty one, numerous suspects were taken into custody for questioning and released promptly when the right man admitted his guilt. Under mob rule any one of the suspects might have been murdered without a chance to prove his innocence.

We join all Alabama in congratulating the officers, court officials and the good citizens of Tuscaloosa county on their victory for law, order and common justice.

GREENVILLE, S. C.
NEWS

JUL 7 1934

THE LYNCHING RECORD

The lynching record for the country during the first six months of the year reached six, as compared with eight during the corresponding period of last year and five for the year before. Thus it appears to have remained about normal for the first six months of the past three years.

Mississippi heads the list of lynching states with two, with Florida, Kentucky, Tennessee and Texas tieing for second place with one each. South Carolina is one of the favored states with no such crime reported against it. All of the victims were negroes. The offenses charged were: Wounding man in fight, one; striking man, one; associating with white woman, one; criminal assault or attempted criminal assault, three.

While this record is better than the ones of years ago, it still leaves a blot on the South that is deplored by all thinking people. We have legal machinery for dealing with all the offenses committed and, although it sometimes appears to move with entirely too much deliberateness, citizens will increase their self-respect and sense of civic worth by co-operating with the law rather than taking it into their own hands and violating it anew.

TARBORO, N. C.
SOUTHERNER

AUG 6 1934

REFRESHING LYNCHING

At Bethany, Louisiana, has occurred a lynching which is quite refreshing. For the first time in the history of the South, a Negro has been lynched by members of his own race. A band of Negro men took one Grafton Page, who according to the Associated Press "offered an insult to a young Negro girl" and beat him to death with pine knots.

In general, this newspaper has no word of approval for lynchings, nor does it condone the recent one in Bethany, Louisiana. But it is sick and tired of hearing Northern critics malign the South as an "unprincipled, barbaric people with a superabundance of race consciousness" every time a Negro is lynched.

It has always been our belief that lynchings in the South do not reflect race consciousness so much as they reflect plain, ordinary hot-headedness. By this we mean that Negro attackers of white women are not lynched because they are Negroes but because they have committed what in the South is considered by some the most cardinal of sins. The fact that most lynch victims in the South are Negroes is merely due to the fact that most cases of rape are committed by Negroes.

Be that as it may, whenever a Negro is lynched, there arises a great bellow from such organizations as the Civil Liberties Union, the Society for the Advancement of Colored People and other Northern sympathizers who do not understand the situation. Their one cry is "race discrimination," a cry which, it will be remembered, was often repeated in the elongated trial of the "Scottsboro boys".

But here is something new, a Negro lynched by Negroes. We would be willing to bet those societies looking to the advancement of the Negro race, which ought to be just as concerned about the welfare of the race regardless of by whom a lynching may have been committed on a member of it, will say not a word about the recent affair in Louisiana

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JOURNAL
FRANKFORT, KY.

AUG 9 1934

NEGROES MOB NEGRO

In ~~Caddo Parish~~, Louisiana, occurred one of the most remarkable lynchings on record.

Because of an alleged insult to a girl of his own race by a young Negro who was drunk, the alleged insulter was stripped naked by a mob of his own color and beaten to death with pine knots.

The demoniacal conduct of that moke would have made a moving picture that would have "stood 'em up" on Broadway.

In fact it would not be remarkable if a picture representing the scene should be made.

Imagine the deep forest of the deep South, perhaps a fat pine fire throwing its flickering glare upon the faces of a circle of avenging Negroes, as drunk as their victim perhaps, while the murder was being arranged.

Mobs know no law.

They kill for any purpose if only they are stirred to action by emotion.

Insult is not a capital offense under the laws of any country of which we have ever heard.

But a mob of Louisiana mauls a man to death for an alleged insult.

The incident is grotesquely horrible.

A perfectly sober mob probably is an exception, a drunken one the rule.

It is rare indeed that a mob's action records the sentiment of the more responsible element of the community in which the lynching occurs.

Mob leadership, and mob personnel, represent, no doubt, as a rule, the riff-raff of the neighborhood.

ROCKY MOUNT, N. C.
TELEGRAM

JUL 30 1934

Mississippi Relents

When four people are brought to trial in Mississippi on Wednesday, light will be shed upon the willingness of a community to punish offenders against peace. An aged Negro, accused of having talked "with disrespect" to a white man, was forced to accompany four men into a patch of woods where he was severely beaten. After the beating he was abandoned and before he could he rescued by officers and removed to a hospital for treatment, the Negro died. Four men were arrested, jailed without the privilege of bail, and will be given a hearing on Wednesday. News dispatches from the community point out that people who knew the Negro are aroused and are determined upon demanding justice in this case. The outcome is awaited with interest.

This newspaper is opposed to the lamentable practice of trying cases in news columns in advance of court action. But on the basis of information coming from Mississippi, there is every reason why this case should be gone into thoroughly and why the agencies of law and order should not relent in their determination to punish offenders, if they are found guilty.

A Negro youth, charged with a brutal murder in Nash county, was placed in safe keeping in State's prison recently because of reports of public anger at the crime. Whether there was any basis for the fear on the part of the sheriff and his deputies that an attempt would be made to take the ~~Negro~~ from them is a point for dispute. Citizens in the community in which this crime was committed deny that the Negro was endangered; a Nash county officer reported that he was knocked down. The important fact is that the Negro is held safely in confinement until such a time as he can be brought into the courtroom to answer for an offense. If he is guilty there is no doubt but that full punishment will be accorded.

Had four Negroes beaten a white man to death in Mississippi, we know what would have happened. If Mississippi would remain consistent, the least the state can do is to determine the guilt in this case and then act in accordance with that offense.

Birmingham, Ala., Age-Herald
November 1, 1934

Speeding The Inevitable?

If anything was calculated to revitalize the agitation for federal anti-lynching legislation, the Marianna affair fills the bill. It provides those who are demanding this form of national control with all the ammunition they could ask for. How true this is shown by the reaction of Senators Wagner and Costigan who introduced the anti-lynching measure during the last session of Congress. They have announced their intention to press for action along the same line. Pointing to the Florida atrocity, they stand on ground made doubly firm by the special circumstances of that revolting business.

Southerners who for one reason or another object to the injection of federal authority into the solution of the lynching problem would do well to observe the fresh features presented by the Marianna incident. It involved the crossing of state lines by a group of kidnapers acting for a mob which eventually killed the Negro. This point is being stressed in demands for the attention of the department of justice. But it involved something else, which has set on edge the teeth of the country, namely, the deliberate preparations for the lynching and the advance publicity making a kind of holiday of this defiance of law and human decency.

The upshot is that a paper so well-balanced and restrained as *The Springfield Republican*, remembering how "Public Enemy No. 1," was dealt with when all the protective resources of the country were welded into a mighty weapon to exterminate this menace to society, urges that the same united zeal should be utilized for the suppression of mob violence. "National disgrace No. 1 should have the same treatment by all the authorities, local, state and federal, as public enemy No. 1," it is argued. "Lynching could not long survive in the United States, to blacken American civilization, if there were the same cooperation against it among the representatives of the law, high and low, that there was against Al Capone, Dillinger, Hauptmann and 'Pretty Boy' Floyd."

The Wagner-Costigan bill did not come up for action because Southern senators were able to keep it pigeonholed. Their influence in the next Congress will be greater than ever. But their position on this particular issue will have been seriously weakened by the Florida affair. Parliamentary maneuvering is effective when public sentiment is not wrought up. It can not be relied on when those who are doing the maneuvering against a bill have to face a strong public demand for action and are at the same time deprived of the logic which they could bring to bear in a different situation. The Marianna lynching with its peculiar ferocity robs the state rights principle of its applicability.

The Age-Herald is by no means ready to support federal legislation against lynching. But we have to admit that the Marianna incident has shaken us materially. When state authorities show themselves to be so utterly incompetent as in this case, one is hard put to it to justify continued opposition to federal "interference." And unless a persuasive resolve is evinced to pursue and punish the lynchers, there will be many Southerners who will be convinced that there is no high-minded escape from support of the kind of correction Senators Wagner and Costigan have in mind.

TAMPA, FLA.
TRIBUNE

OCT 30 1934

BAPTIST CLERGY HERE DEPLORES NEGRO LYNCHING

Commends Thompson for Action on Gambling

Baptist ministers of Tampa yesterday protested mob violence and the lynching of a negro last week in Jackson county, and commended the Rev. Homer Thompson for insisting on the closing of a gambling house in two resolutions adopted by the Tampa Baptist Ministers' association.

The resolution on lynching was presented by the Rev. A. J. Moncreif jr., pastor of the Bayshore Baptist church. It follows, in part:

"In view of the conduct of a mob of people in Jackson county, Florida in interfering with the processes of duly constituted law and order, and taking from an Alabama jail a negro accused of a crime, and lynching him near Marianna, as reported in the press, we feel it our Christian duty to express a strong protest against such lawless action.

Urge Punishment of Mob

"We further encourage the officers of the law to be diligent in their efforts to apprehend and punish the leaders of the mob. Mob violence is cowardly and cruel in the extreme and the nature of the crime of the accused does not justify it in any Christian community. It arouses the most primitive emotions, and these do not die when the mob disperses, but express themselves in untold petty cruelties and social degredations."

The resolution commending Mr. Thompson, pastor of the Hyde Park Methodist church, was presented by the Rev. John N. Hudson, pastor of the Concord Baptist church.

It read as follows:

"We earnestly commend the action of Rev. Homer Thompson, pastor of Hyde Park Methodist church, in calling upon the authorities to close a gambling place last week, which they in turn did. We feel that Mr. Thompson acted in the interest of higher social and moral standards in the residential sections of Tampa in requesting the closing of the said gambling place and we heartily approve and commend his action.

"In view of reported efforts to intimidate and threaten Mr. Thompson, we further commend the officers of the federal government in their efforts to apprehend the guilty party."

Advertiser 11-6-34

Montgomery, Ala.

GEOGRAPHY, EDUCATION AND LYNCHING

David Sholtz, governor of Florida, was born in New York and educated at Yale. Thomas Erby Kilby, one-time governor of Alabama, was born in Tennessee and educated in the public schools. During Gov. Kilby's administration there was a lynching in Southeast Alabama. Not satisfied with the conduct of the sheriff, the governor removed him from office, placed first-class detectives on the trail of the lynchers and within six weeks had convicted more than 10 with sentences ranging from a $50 fine to 15 years in the pentitentiary. The circumstances may differ but at any rate we respectfully commend Alabama's Tennessee governor to Florida's New York governor in the matter of action on the recent lynching at Greenwood, Fla.—John Temple Graves, ~~in~~ Birmingham Age-Herald.

General education may tend to destroy the general lynching spirit. General geographic boundaries may identify general lynching communities. But as for the individual, geography and education do not always govern his thoughts on lynching.

Taken as an average, New Yorkers would be more inclined to accept lynch law than do Southerners, if New Yorkers often met with the conditions which cause lynchings. And we say this because New York has a large ignorant and prejudiced populace.

Taken as an average the persons of college education would be more against lynchings than would those who have not received educations.

But one horrible fact we must admit that many, many, otherwise enlightened and cultured Alabamians do favor lynchings under some circumstances. We put it up to the college men. Is it not so?

Lynchings-1934 & Discussions

White Press, Southern.

4535

Lexington, Ky., Leader
January 30, 1934

THE FIRST LYNCHING

The first lynching to occur in the United States in 1934 was perpetrated near Hazard this week. A Negro, in an altercation with a white miner, struck his victim hard enough to render him unconscious, a condition in which he was lying in a hospital at the time the mob was gathering. It was a case of assault, perhaps with intent to kill, but it was neither homicide nor murder.

Yet a crowd of men met at the jail, secured the key to the Negro's cell, having threatened the jailer with death, and hanged the prisoner, riddling the body with bullets. There was no certainty that the injured man would die. There was no evidence that the Negro was the aggressor in the fight or that he did more than defend himself. None of the salient facts in the case had been brought out or were known to the mob. Without benefit of trial, without opportunity to defend himself, without the protection of the laws which are supposed to be thrown about innocent and guilty alike until all the facts are known and by judicial processes the truth is determined, the mob murdered a prisoner in the custody of the state.

The Negro, Rex Scott, 20 years of age, had been an inmate of the penitentiary, and may have been lawless, even dangerous. That has nothing to do with the case. Under the laws of the state he was entitled to a trial by jury and to make whatever defense was possible. There is no reason whatever to believe that he would have escaped trial or that he would have failed of conviction and punishment if found guilty.

In 1933 more lynchings occurred than in any year for a long time. Conditions had been improving. In a large number of instances prisoners were effectually protected by the state. In others, where mobs took the law into their hands, the ringleaders were punished. Those who have labored to break up such practices in this country were congratulating themselves upon the dawning of a better day. Last year, however, there was a startling and terrible recrudescence of mob rule.

The governor of California went so far as to approve of the action of a mob in his state, constituted of half-drunken rowdies drawn from the dives of the city where the crime occurred, who broke into a jail and hanged and burned a prisoner charged with kidnaping. Other mobs formed in different parts of the country almost immediately.

Mob rule is the very antithesis of all that may be called orderly government and administration of justice, developed by mankind over thousands of years of time. It is a return to barbarism. If it is allowed free rein no man's life is safe. The innocent are as apt to suffer as the guilty. It should be ruthlessly stamped out.

What will Gov. Laffoon do about it?

Knoxville, Tenn., News-Sentinel
January 23, 1934

Lynching Justifiable in Some Cases, Says Head of Women Voters Club

Mobs Have Right To Act When Law Fails, Mrs. Cunningham Holds; Presidents of Other Groups Here Disagree.

By EDITH SNYDER EVANS

There are two schools of thought in regard to lynching among Knoxville club women, a check showed today.

This was first brought out at a meeting last Thursday of the Knoxville League of Women Voters.

Mrs. Bannister Wilkes, member of the league, introduced a resolution at the meeting, proposing that the league endorse the stand taken by clubwomen meeting at Atlanta who scored lynching, and voted to co-operate with President Roosevelt in stamping it out.

Resolution Opposed

However, some of the members of the League, including the president, Mrs. R. L. Cunningham, felt that lynching in some cases was justifiable.

"With the law as it is," Mrs. Cunningham says, "it is hard to get convictions, and when our loved ones are tortured, we are bound to feel that we must have revenge, and have it quickly. I don't believe lynching can ever be abolished."

Mrs. J. T. Edwards, president of the Knoxville Woman's Club, on the other hand, declares that she is utterly opposed to lynching under any circumstances.

"I admit that our court system ought to be revised," Mrs. Edwards says, "but I think, too, that there should be a drastic federal law against lynching."

"Lynching No Solution"

"Our legal processes are slow," Mrs. N. W. Dougherty, president of the Knoxville branch of the American Association of University Women, said, "but lynching is no solution, and I do not see how any intelligent woman can approve it."

"It seems to me that those who take part in lynchings are usually criminals themselves, and therefore as guilty as the persons they punish," says Miss Hattie Love, president of the Knoxville Business and Professional Women's Clubs. Lynching is extremely dangerous, she added, pointing out that with each lynching the mob gets stronger, thereby subjecting innocent people to the danger of mob action.

Corbin, Ky., Times-Tribune
January 30, 1934

The Wrong Way

A mob lynched a negro near Hazard last week. No doubt the negro needed capital punishment. He was a bad actor. Just back from Greendale, he brutally murdered a white man. That man, by the way, was from Whitley county.

But the mob way is the wrong way to administer justice. It merely makes two crimes instead of one. The courts have been established to deal out justice to the guilty and innocent alike. True enough, the courts have failed miserably in many instances. But whose fault is that? Yours and mine, undoubtedly. We should demand the right kind of action from the courts, should be willing to aid the courts in all fair and impartial prosecutions. Civilization cannot advance by mob law. It goes backward by this method. Those who take part in lynchings are giving way to savage emotions, for the most part. This is no textbook observation. We witnessed a lynching in Kentucky a few years ago. Saw a negro taken from jail by a mob. It was a wild, savage scene. Stark, uncontrolled passion. Men are not elevated in this manner. Wrongs are not made right. The peaceful method of administering justice is the better method, even if there are many miscarriages. Mob law is wrong, and the fair name of the state is besmirched in such disorderly happenings as the Hazard lynching.

SUFFOLK, VA.
NEWS HERALD
FEB 1 1934

THE ORGY CONTINUES

More than thirty lynching bees were recorded in this country during 1933, some of them so brutal and fiendish as to defy description. Most of them, we regret to say, occurred south of the Mason and Dixon line but in their entirety they are confined to no particular section. The mania to take human life by mob violence seems to have fairly well permeated the entire nation. The spirit has manifested itself the past year even in staid New England although outside of the south it was only in flower in California. The weakness of our moral fibre can be in no better way demonstrated than in this tendency of the populace to take into its own hands the administration of justice.

During the month just ended the country has been disgraced by two summary executions. The first occurred in the state of Kentucky where a Negro boy was taken from his jailors, strung up to a tree and shot to death in the presence of a hundred or more participants or spectators, evidently with their approval. But be it remembered, this boy had been convicted of no crime. He was merely suspected of having committed one. He might have only been the victim of circumstances, but the unreasoning mob wanted some one upon whom to wreak its vengeance and he was the nearest at hand. That is always the way of the mob when it undertakes to assume the prerogatives of the court.

In Florida another Negro youth was placed under arrest on suspicion of having committed an unspeakable crime against a white woman. There were no facts, only suspicion to connect him with the crime, but he was taken from his legal custodians and shot to death. There is no evidence that those responsible for his safekeeping raised their hand to protect him from his executioners. He was being transferred from one jail to another, yet he was done to death fifteen miles from the final place of his incarceration to await a hearing. There is no record that an officer of the law made any effort to protect him.

Here are instances of two mob outbreaks that the country cannot pass up complacently without assuming its share of the culpability. One reason why mob murders have increased in numbers and violence is the disposition of the public to shift responsibility to the states or localities where they occur. Mob law could not live a day in this country if it were not condoned in the higher strata of society. The "best people" merely shrug their shoulders and give their tacit consent to the greatest crime existant considered in its broader aspects.

There is no court in this land which winks at crime, yet we say by our attitude that the courts cannot be trusted. It ill becomes a nation that condones anarchy to rail against non-enforcement of the laws. Nothing strikes deeper into the majesty of the law or orderly government than mob-murder and those who condone it are as guilty as those who commit it.

SAN ANTONIO, TEX.
EXPRESS

FEB 2 1934

The Law Is on Trial

About seven weeks passed, after the lynching at San Jose, without serious renewal of efforts to kidnap reputedly wealthy persons for ransom. Those who supposed that the lawless proceeding would have an exemplary effect can assert that the practice of this foul crime for gain died down for a while.

But a resident of St. Paul, Edward G. Bremer, was captured in broad daylight the other day, apparently on the public streets, just after he ha. driven his little girl to school. A note announced that his abductors demanded $200,000 for his release.

The respite, the terror inspired in criminals by the deed at San Jose, did not last long. It becomes plain that an isolated lynching will not permanently stop this type of crime. Obviously the law is not going to grant the license to lynch somebody every time an abduction occurs. The criminals know this well, and some of them brave the risks of an enterprise desperate enough in any case.

This country has laws so made as to protect the innocent person rather than, at his risk, bring jeopardy to the most atrocious of criminals. It is perfectly conceivable that States should in the future pass statutes requiring persons to identify themselves, to be called as witnesses against themselves and to be found guilty otherwise than by the unanimous vote of a jury; it is not impossible that the right to release on bail should be greatly restricted, just as it has been liberalized in the past by admitting the professional surety; it is not beyond the imagination that, if necessary to speedier trial, States should generally permit trial upon information, doing away with any delays or loopholes provided by inefficiency in grand juries. Not incredibly, heavy restrictions might be laid on the criminal bar.

These things are not near at hand; they are not desired, and, indeed, most of them are to be deprecated and avoided if our forces of law can keep crime down. But there is a point at which the honest majority would rather give up some of its own safeguards at law than bear further increase of peril from those who defy the law.

We have already seen, in the case of San Jose, how profoundly the crime now under discussion exasperates the spirits of ordinarily lawful people. It rests with the criminal law, as now constituted, to vindicate itself; otherwise it may find itself not merely discredited and defied by its normal supporters, as in California, but put on the operating table in legislatures and in popular votes on constitutional amendments.—Brooklyn Eagle.

Southern Farmer
Montgomery, Ala.

FEB — 1934

ECONOMICS AND LYNCHING

[From Taxes]

1. Under a just economic system men would not be compelled to struggle for a living and would not be tempted as they now are to resort to crime for revenue.

2. Under a just e,onomic system money-making would not be glorified as it is now and the minds of men would not be turned as now to money making.

3. Our homes and schools and churches would be real homes and schools and churches and men would be better trained.

4. The papers would be able to be constructive and helpful and not compelled to depend upon sensationalism. This would make for a better moral tone throughout society.

5. Our police and courts and other governmental machinery would be more dependable, more effective, more trusted. There would not be the distrust of the courts that contributes so much to these lynchings.

6. Because the police and courts would be more effective and the punishment for lynching would be certain it would not be safe for people to engage in lynchings.

7. Because the public attitude toward lynching would be thus altered, we would not have a "Jimmie the lyncher" in the governor's chair, but would have a governor who would see to it that local passion did not get out of bounds, or, if that happened that the state officials did their duty and the lynchers paid the penalty; for, under the California law, lynching is murder.

The San Jose kidnapping is largely, if not wholly, traceable to economic conditions—to moral and political conditions that are the result of economic conditions.

Only in a state suffering from economic distemper could a "Jimmie the lyncher" become governor.

MIAMI, FLA.
HERALD

FEB 3 1934

THE DEPUTY CONSTABLE?

THE Tampa lynching in which the life of a presumably innocent negro was taken when he was in the custody of a deputy constable points to a very serious weakness in our peace system.

The legality of a deputy constable is very questionable. The title cloaks a man with little or no official responsibility, but with all the power of a sheriff. It results frequently in petty racketeering, intimidation and a general mess in supposed law enforcement that should be wiped out.

Miami had an instance of this not long ago, when a deputy constable was involved in a killing, brought about by his meddling in business that was not properly his to handle. In Tampa a deputy constable took a prisoner from the city jail toward the county jail, and supposedly lost him to a "mob" that filled the unhappy wretch full of lead. This would not have occurred had the sheriff, or his deputies, been handling this case.

The constable for years has been recognized as a rusty fifth wheel on the chariot of progress. To buttress his waning power, local bills have been passed in recent years to permit the county commissioners to recognize deputy constables. In this way a justice of the peace and his constable can build up quite a little police force within the district. It should not be permitted.

We have no quarrel with justices of the peace or constables either. Dade county is blessed with splendid men in these positions, but the character of the occupants does not minimize the decadence of the offices. They are maintaining an outmoded and useless branch of government. Usually the result is negative, but, as in the instance of the Tampa lynching, tragedy resulted from an improper assumption of police powers.

In the state's plan for simplifying government, here is one fertile field for the reaper.

SAN ANTONIO, TEX.
EXPRESS

JAN 27 1934

"Lynching" Improperly Used

Discussing the subject of lynching in letters to the magazine Time, with th suggestion (adopted by Time) that the word be changed to "rolphing," Charles Francis Potter, leader of the First Humanist Society of New York writes to the editor in a recent issue:

"The taking of human life without due process of law should never have been called lynching anyway.

"Charles Lynch of Virginia deserves the eternal gratitude of all Americans, for he was largely responsible for the instructions given the Virginian delegates to the colonial congress whereby the Declaration of Independence came into being.

"In 1780, when he was colonel of a cavalry regiment, and about to lead his men to repel the British, he stopped long enough to arrest the leaders of a Tory conspiracy and, as justice of the peace, to sentence them to jail.

"Thereafter, emergency acts of justice without court procedure were referred to as Lynch law. In early California days and in the South just after the Civil War, Lynch law was carried so far that men, both white and negro, were summarily executed without benefit of fair trial.

"But Col. Charles Lynch of Virginia does not deserve to have his name coupled with uch lawless procedure as the taking of men's lives by crazed mobs today."—Kansas City Star.

Lynchings-1934
Discussions

White Press, Southern -

4536

4536

Tallahassee, Fla. Democrat
October 29, 1934

Lynch Law
A Vestige of Pa

Lynching is [illegible] ld habit, a carry over from frontier days, the inability to become adjusted to changing conditions.

Time was when lynch law was justified and necessary. In the west the offenses most often punished in this extra-legal manner were highway robbery and horse stealing. In the south the offense usually punished by lynching has been crime against the person.

In the western states colonization and need for regulation preceded establishment of courts of justice.

In the south legal machinery was disrupted when taken from the hands of citizens and placed in charge of imported despots who had no real interest in the welfare of the communities or the commonwealth.

In both cases the choice was between lynch law and no justice.

But lynch law, thus justified and made necessary, was usually carried out in an orderly manner. It was under cover justice but orderly justice. The accused were given trial, perhaps as fair trial as they now can obtain in court houses. After determination of guilt the sentence of death or whipping was executed.

In the case at Marianna the guilt of the accused was in no doubt. A piece of his shirt, which fitted that garment found in his house was discovered at the scene of the crime. The ring from the watch found in his pocket was located there. And he confessed.

The sentence of death under our laws, was not only just but mandatory.

The method of executing that sentence alone is in doubt. If necessary, the method, up to a point, was justified. If not necessary it was not justified.

The question is: Has law enforcement broken down in Florida or in Jackson county, do juries fail to do their duty there, is it impossible to obtain justice in the normal, legal form prescribed by our people in their laws?

Believing that these questions must be answered in the negative, believing that the courts are open in Jackson county, that juries of Jackson county citizens would convict on the evidence available in this and similar cases, that sentence would be set and execution would follow, there appears no necessity for lynch law.

We, as a free people, have established our laws and our courts. We can maintain them only by respecting them.

A lynching, and more particularly a lynching with the additional features of mutilation and stringing of the body at the steps of the court of justice, tends to destroy the effectiveness of the government which the people themselves have ordained.

More than that it damages our state in the eyes of the nation.

The accused in this case, guilty without doubt, would have been just as dead, two weeks from now, had he been tried, convicted and the sentence of death executed in the regular and legal manner according to the laws of Florida and the sense of justice in Jackson county.

St. Petersburg, Fla. Independent
October 30, 1934

Anti-Lynching Laws.

One of the probable results of the Marianna lynching will be the stimulation of effort to put through congress a federal anti-lynching bill. Senator Wagner, who introduced such a bill last session, said yesterday that he would renew the fight, and felt confident congress would enact it into law.

This bill, known as the Costigan-Wagner bill, subjects to a fine up to $5,000 or imprisonment up to five years, or both, any state or local official who is charged with the protection of an individual and who fails to make "all diligent efforts" to protect him from injury at the hands of a mob. A similar penalty is provided for any state or local official lax in his duties of arresting, jailing or prosecuting any member of such mob. The federal court in the judicial district where mob violence occurs shall have jurisdiction to try, under the laws of the state concerned, any member of a lynching mob, but only if state officers are lax in prosecution, or jurors obtainable for a state court are opposed to punishment for the lynching.

The law also provides that any county in which a person is killed by a mob shall be fined $10,000. This fine is to be levied by the federal government, which is given the right to collect by property levy, mandamus or other appropriate measures. In case the victim is seized in one county and put to death in another, each county is liable for the fine. If the victim has dependents, the fine is to go to them.

At the last session the bill was lost in the pile of unfinished business, but a similar measure was killed in 1921 by a senate filibuster of southern senators, after the house had adopted it. The filibusterers were opposed to federal intervention in what they considered a state problem.

However much we may regret an incident such as occurred in West Florida, we may have to admit the futility of such general measures by the federal government to punish local units. Many states now have anti-lynching laws, which [illegible] not prevent lynchings. Furthermore, [illegible] jurors in a state court will not convict members of a lynching mob, jurors in a federal court are likely to take the same attitude.

If lynchings are to be stopped, officers of the law must stop them. In [illegible] cases out of ten, conscientious and courageous action can prevent the crime. Too many officers virtually hand their prisoners over to mobs, or fail in the first place to spirit them away to safe places. To enact a federal law punishing a county after the officers of that county have allowed the passions of the mobsters to rise to a murderous pitch would be to write another law on the books to be disregarded.

Tampa, Fla., Times
October 29, 1934

Jackson County Lynching A Disgrace To Florida

In the brutal slaying of a negro in Jackson County Saturday, the mob disgraced not only the county in which the lynching occurred, but all Florida as well.

It would be difficult to cite a parallel in the history of mob violence in Florida, to the actions of the mob that slashed and mutilated the negro, dragged his bullet riddled body behind an automobile, and left it hanging to a tree in the Court House yard at Marianna. The men who composed the mob displayed a degree of bestiality not often witnessed in such outbreaks, and it is sincerely to be hoped, for the sake of Florida's good name, that ringleaders and members of the mob may be apprehended and punished, though such a consummation, unfortunately, is hardly to be expected.

A lynching, in any case, is a shameful exhibit of a lapse into barbarism or savagery. In the Jackson County affair, no excuse can be offered in palliation. No possible doubt could have existed that the negro would have been tried promptly and that the justice of Florida law would have been meted out to him. But the mob could not wait the orderly process of law; it must invade a neighbor State, snatch the alleged offender from a jail there, and then, in the presence of scores of invited men, women and children, wreak vengeance on him.

Saturday was a gala day for West Florida. Besides the lynching, another negro, alleged to have struck a white man, was threatened with the same fate. Only the presence of an associate justice of the Florida Supreme Court and the certainty that National Guard troops were on their way to Marianna averted the second disgrace. Meanwhile, on the same day, a convicted bank bandit armed with a pistol smuggled to him in the Marianna courtroom, shot and killed a deputy sheriff removing him to another jail, the deputy shooting another alleged robber before he fell.

One brutal lynching; a second barely averted; a robber killed and a deputy sheriff slain, all in one day. That constitutes a program of "thrills" that might even have satisfied the wildest locality of the old Wild West in its most lurid days.

uscaloosa, Ala., News
October 30, 1934

Press Comment Of The Day

(The Montgomery Advertiser)

VENGEANCE AND THE LAW

THE hundreds of civilized white men who poured across the Alabama line from Florida and seized a young Negro rapist from a passive Sheriff at Brewton in preparation for a gala lynching festival were motivated by the Greatest Excuse a mob of Southern white men can have for murder.

The Negro, Claude Neal, had outraged a young white woman, left her miserably violated, then as an afterthought returned to the scene and clubbed the helpless victim to death.

Those of us who sit coolly at a distance and judge with restrained passion, before condemning the brutal pageant of vengeance, staged in a manner shockingly suggestive of unholy circuses by pagan peoples, must consider the crime of the mob's victim.

His was a fiendish crime. It set blood a-boiling in the veins of a peaceful Anglo-Saxon folk, not unlike the people found in any agrarian community in this country.

It is a sad commentary that any people in this country, in the same circumstances, in the same environment, would feel called upon to take the law into their own hands and execute, indeed, slaughter, a fiend guilty of the crime of which the mob's victim was certainly guilty.

The Negro was murdered in Florida by Floridians. But Alabama shares in the responsibility. The prisoner had been brought to an Alabama jail for safe-keeping. And an Alabama sheriff stood by "helplessly and powerlessly" while a group of determined men with the usual large following of merely curious, took Claude Neal from the Brewton jail.

It seems reasonable to assume that if a mob of strangers could kidnap the man, the officers of the law at Brewton certainly would not risk harming local citizens and voters if they should attempt to remove a prisoner from jail for lynching purposes.

The few persons who plotted and staged the lynching were not ignorant of the ancient theory that a "good show will show the rest of 'em what they can't get away with," an argument first on the lips of those who attempt to justify mob law.

That "invitations" were sent abroad to all "white folks who care to attend" and that elaborate preparations were made for a gaudy presentation of the mutilated corpse in the courthouse square of Marianna, assures readers in all parts of the world that the lynching festival was held in a fitting manner, high moral tone, and all.

The world's estimate of Florida statesmen will rise higher, too, as it reads that a Florida legislator entertained his enthusiastic constituents with a humorous speech on the eve of the murder.

But what are we to do?

There will be investigations, of course. There may be even a few arrests. But if indictments are returned—which seems improbable—there will not be any convictions. Even so a community—a race can not be indicted.

The men and women who joined the gleeful throngs to "see a nigger hang" were not a pagan people. They were Floridians, and doubtless some of them were Alabamians. However, they are not different from the rest of us.

That is what makes it painful.

Alabamians, or Georgians, or Mississippians—YES—and New Yorkers and Bostonians, in the same environment, the same circumstances—might have been guilty of taking part in it, or of condoning the Roman festival.

It may be said to the credit of our neighbors across the line—and remember they are not unlike those of us who merely happen to live across the line from the scene of the crime—that they were more sensitive to brutality than they believed they were.

Hundreds eager to see the awful sight were sickened by it. Hundreds who joined the cry for the man's life perhaps this morning—as they go to the town churches and the country meeting houses to take communion—will decide that perhaps a better way might have been found to wreak vengeance.

Vengeance should have no part in executing justice. But it has because men still are vengeful.

The people of Marianna wronged themselves. But also they are guilty of reflecting upon the human race.

The tragedy lies not in the killing of one Negro who certainly deserved death, but in the actions of the people.

Valdosta, Ga., Times
October 29, 1934

FLORIDA LYNCHING

Hundreds of citizens from Northwest Florida went on a lynching expedition the other night. A negro, who was alleged to have attacked and murdered a young woman, was taken from a Brewton, Ala., jail by a mob and returned to Florida, where he was killed and his body hung in the courtyard at Marianna, Fla.

"They done me wrong about the killing," said the aged father of the girl, as he wept. "They promised me they would bring him up to my house before they killed him and let me have the first shot. That's what I wanted."

The governor of Florida asked officers if they needed the National Guard in order to protect the negro and got the answer that the matter was well in hand and the troops were not needed. Still the mob carrried out its purpose.

It was rumored around through the crowd that an "invitation" was given to all the "whites" to attend the lynching. The people went wild and took the law into their own hands.

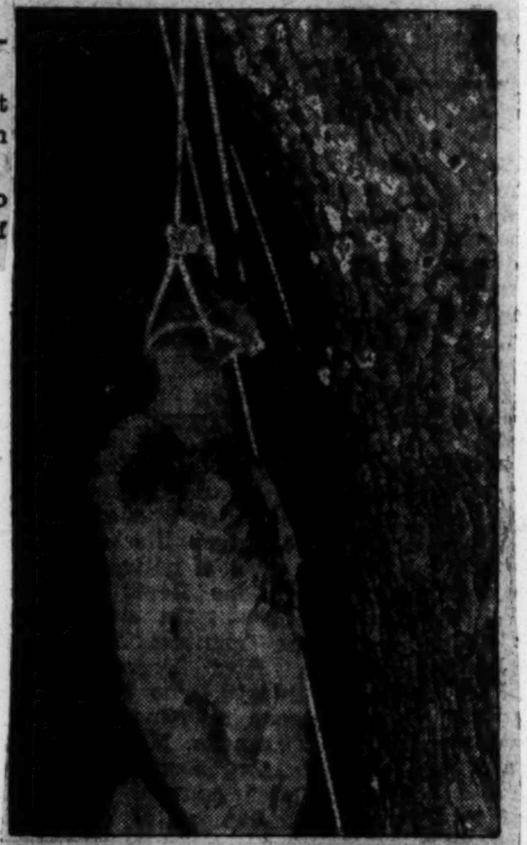
The action in the part of these people is probably the worst case of mob violence that has happened in this part of the South in a number of years. Newspaper accounts indicated that the crowd went mad and the officers of the law were not willing to buck the blood-hungry mob.

It is strange how a father could say that he wanted to fire the first shot into the body of his daughter's assailant. Such a statement appears to be inhuman on the part of any one, but of course, no one can tell what he would do if the actual case were brought home to him.

It is to be regretted that the people near the little town of Greenwood, Fla., had to resort to such methods to avenge the death of one of their citizens. It is hoped that mob rule will not flare up again in this little town for a number of years to come and that the citizens will live in peace and forget the horrible murder and its result.

Dothan, Ala. Eagle
October 30, 1934

THE MOB DOES MORE THAN KILL ITS VICTIM



This revolting picture shows the result of mob spirit when the veneer of civilization is temporarily wiped off.

The Negro's crime was hideous and he deserved to die, but not in the manner he did die.

He committed worse than murder, but the men who killed him likewise committed more than murder. The Negro outraged a white woman, and the mob outraged law, order, justice and the decencies which the slow work of the centuries has given us for protection under organized society.

The mob acts under the impression that one wrong can be righted by a second wrong, but the mob is mistaken. This system has never worked and it never will, for no reason is attached to it; it is the method of men blinded and frenzied by various emotions with anger as the base; it is never right, for it is irresponsible and itself an outlaw.

Through the thousands of years required for man to reach a comparatively civilized state, a few truths have been proved of fundamental importance and permanence. Among them is that society best preserves its safety by organizing courts of justice and observing certain codes and laws. Punishment for those who violate laws designed for the common good should be prompt but impersonal.

It is possible that the slowness of courts in certain criminal cases—such as the Scottsboro case, for example—has played its part in the Florida affair. Even so, Alabama must share part of the blame, for the officials of Escambia county were lax in movements to protect the prisoner from the mob. No amount of denials can change the fact that the mob had sought the prisoner all over Northwest Florida for several days. Officials in every county knew the danger. If they didn't know it, they were not on the job.

Many things must be done before mob violence vanishes from the Republic. We will have to simplify and quicken the work of the courts; we will have to remove peace officers from the status of a politician who does his job always with an eye to the next election; and we the people must reach a higher degree of civilization.

That's a large order you say—and it is. But it is worth striving for.

Meanwhile, until these things are done there will continue to be horrible spectacles such as pictured above, to degrade us as human beings.

Lynchings-1934
Discussions

White Press, (southern)

4537

What Georgia Editors Say

PRESIDENT DENOUNCES LYNCHING

From the Augusta Chronicle.

The president's address Wednesday night before the Federal Council of Churches of Christ in America raised a standard to which every wise and honest man may aspire, regardless of party, creed or race. For lynching is nothing short, as he reminded his audience, of "a vile form of collective murder," and Mr. Roosevelt was certainly thinking of Governor Rolph of California, when he said, "We do not excuse those in high places or in low who condone lynch law."

Telegraph

The outbreaks of violence in California, Missouri and Maryland closely connected, and although it is probably too much to charge that the lynchings in Missouri resulted from Governor Rolph's approval of the lynching of the kidnapers of young Hart, nevertheless that approval has had a profound influence upon those who claim that lynching is the enforced alternative when regular administration of justice breaks down.

1-6-34

There rests, therefore, upon every foe of lynchings the duty of seeking to make justice swift and sure, and as Mr. Roosevelt declared, after his rebuke to Governor Rolph: "But a thinking America goes further. It seeks a government of its own that will be sufficiently strong to protect the prisoner and at the same time to crystallize a public opinion so clear that government of all kinds will be compelled to practice a more certain justice. The judicial function of government is the protection of the individual and of the community through quick and certain justice. That function in many places has fallen into a state of disrepair. It must be a part of our program to re-establish it."

Lynching, as The New York Herald Tribune declared in an editorial reproduced in The Chronicle a short time ago, is not confined to any one section. There are more cases of this crime in the South than elsewhere, just as we know there are more instances of gang lawlessness and organized crime in the great cities of the East and Middle West. But it is not for any section or any state to point an accusing finger at others. Let us first set our own house in order. To this duty the president has rallied the entire nation.

Talladega, Ala., Home
January 4, 1934

For the first time in our memory a president's message mentioned the crime of lynching. It was mentioned along with banditry, kidnaping and cold-blooded murder, all of which have become threats to an orderly society. And under the same heading it called attention to crimes in high places, in which investigations in recent months have revealed certain big institutions have robbed their stockholders and the public. Getting rid of the predatory interests, whether they be found in the criminal's hangout or the counting house, is necessary for the security of the nation.

Statesville, N. C. Daily
Janaury 2, 1934

A GRAND JURY THAT IS GRAND.

In the orgy of lynching the past year Missouri has set an example to all other States, including our own North Carolina. November 28 Lloyd Warner, 19-year-old negro, was taken from the jail at St. Joseph, Mo., and lynched. He was charged with attacking a young white woman. The mob burned the body after hanging the negro. That was immediately following the double lynching in California, the latter in a measure sponsored, and loudly applauded, by the governor of that State. It was about the same time the attempt to arrest and bring to trial lynchers in Maryland had failed.

But none of these things stayed the Missourians, or at least those charged with responsibility for upholding the law at St. Joseph. The grand jury of Buchanan county has returned eleven indictments against suspected participants in the lynching. In its report the grand jury places responsibility for the lynching on the sheriff and local police for their alleged failure to protect the prisoner, and the spectators are condemned as having "by their presence lent encouragement to the lynchers." Also the jury that is grand in action as well as name recommends that steps be taken to call for the resignation of the sheriff and members of the police department "for neglect of duty." The sheriff's explanation to the jury that he believed the jail impregnable is characterized as "unsound."

That is a jury that knows what it is there for and has the courage to perform. The governor of the State stepped out boldly at the beginning and called for action. Nobly has the grand jury responded. Suppose now, if you can suppose it, the grand jury of Pender county, North Carolina, rising to the occasion like that and calling for the resignation of the sheriff. Where sheriffs fail and refuse to perform it should not be necessary to ask for a resignation. They should be ousted. They can't be of course except where the law so provides. In some States the governor has that authority, and he should have the authority, and it should be made his duty, to suspend every executive officer who neglects and ignores his duty, the suspension to be made permanent removal if the charge is established on a hearing.

Bishopville, S. C., Messenger
January 4, 1934

WHY LYNCHING

L

There is no such thing as lynch law. We hear of it often and sometimes we see it enacted. It is not law but disrespect for constituted law, finding an outward expression. There may be and really is no excuse for the mob, but so long as governors pardon as some of them do, creating disrespect for law; just so long as juries fail to do their duty by convicting; just so long as judges allow lawyers to control, as it were, the courts and get delays, mistrials, inadequate sentences or acquitals, there is liable to be what is called lynch law. It will break out here and there, irrespective of geographical lines or social conditions. The country has witnessed several of these outbreaks during the last few weeks. They were widely scattered. The wonder is that the exasperated people do not show their feelings in more of these outbreaks.

Let there be adequate punishment speedily meted uot by courts and non-interference of governors with the decisions of courts and constituted law will be trusted and resorts to mob spirit will be few and far between.

Asheville, N. C., Citizen
January 7, 1934

Lynching Takes Toll Of 5,000 Victims In U. S. In Fifty Years

By STANLEY A. TULLSEN
(NEA Service Staff Correspondent)

Five thousand victims in a half century—that is the black record of lynching in the United States.

Even this is a record from which pages are missing, one on which hundreds of names of those who have gone to their graves by violence are not listed, one which does not include those slain in race riots and other outbreaks.

And before the time which this record covers, before it was thought worth-while to investigate lynching, hundreds of others died at the hands of maddened crowds which acted first and looked into the facts after the grim deed was done.

Nation Awakening

The nation at last is awakening to the appalling menace of lynch law, with the hideous acts of western, midwestern, and eastern mobs fresh in mind, and a concerted effort is being launched to stamp out the evil.

From the hero of a swift blow struck for American liberty comes the name that designates this most heinous of crimes, according to the most accepted version.

Charles Lynch was a Virginia planter, a member of the house of burgesses, a justice of the peace, turned soldier during the war of the Revolution. In 1780, as he prepared to lead his cavalry squadron against the invading British, he discovered a formidable conspiracy among Tories of Bedford county.

Name Is Born

Lynch essentially was a man of action. Without a moment's hesitation, after capturing the ring-leaders, he condemned them to imprisonment, and incontinently flung them into jail, thwarting the plot against the patriots.

He had exceeded the limit of his powers, in this heavy-handed emergency thrust, and from this action was coined the name given to lawlessness parading under the guise of law.

Lynching, in its early days, rarely involved death. Tar and feather parties and riding victims on a rail were regarded as lynching. And even this was not frequent, except in sparsely settled frontier communities.

From 1830 to 1840 it seldom meant inflicting the death penalty. As "civilization and culture" advanced, from 1850 to 1860, it often had that meaning. And from 1875 to the present day, lynching has meant death by horrible violence.

Rope Ruled In West

However, except in the early settlement of California, lynching seems seldom to have been practiced until after the Civil War.

Men trained in the rough school of the wilderness were impatient of legal forms and technicalities. They wanted their justice straight and swift. So lynch law eradicated outlawry and cattle rustling from the forests, mountain passes, and valleys of the far west.

Then came the disorders after emancipation, during Reconstruction days in the south. Lynching came to mean torture and death, with negroes almost always the victims. And lynch law became, in the eyes of the world, a peculiarly American institution.

Be that as it may, it is a crime which has prevailed in other countries. In England, it was practiced under the name of Lydford law; in Scotland it was called Cowper law, There also was gibbet, or Halifax, and Jeddart law in Britain, which indicated the same fate for the unfortunate offender.

North Also Guilty

Russia, too, is not guiltless of lynching, and in Germany there was the Vehmgerichte.

Northrners are prone to look toward the south when lynching is mentioned. But the hands of citizens of almost every northern state are stained with the blood of victims of the noose, the stake, and the gun.

The east has the cleanest record of any section, when lynching statistics are checked. In the west, most of the victims are white. In the south, negroes are by far the greatest sufferers.

One significant finding blasts the belief that a mob is motivated by chivalry, protecting the honor of the womanhood of its community. In 1918, for instance, it was shown that of a total of 62 lynchings, only 16 were for criminal assault.

Many Were Innocent

A study by the Inter-Racial Cooperation Commission of mob murder over a period of nearly a half century shows that many of the victims were innocent of the offenses for which they died deaths of horror.

Some were killed as the result of mistaken identity, others on unfounded suspicion, some by mob madness.

There were cases of burnings, hangings, and fatal beatings that involved crimes no more serious than hog stealing, "creating disturbances," "quarrel with employer," "failing to turn out of road," and "not knowing his place."

Mob Leader Was Killer

No more ghastly evidence of the misplaced vengeance of a mob can be presented that that for which two men died at Celina, O., in 1872. An enraged band of farmers, led by Thomas B. Douglas, hanged Alexander McLeod and Absalom Kimmel for the assault and murder of Mary Secaur, a child of 14, despite strong indications that they knew nothing of the crime.

Years later, Douglas, on his death bed in Denver, confessed that he had slain the child and had spurred on the mob to turn suspicion away from himself.

Despite the vigorous battle waged by pulpit, press, and legislators, mob violence flames pediodically, rising one year, falling the next, only to rise again.

Hope For U. S. Law

Hope is stirred that congress will enact a federal anti-lynching law when it convenes in January and thus take a great step toward eliminating the evil.

Senator Edward P. Costigan of Colorado is drafting a bill which he asserts he will introduce on the first day congress is in session, and support has been pledged by a large number of senators.

Under the constitution, the federal government has little power now to check the barbarous crime. Punishment is left almost entirely to individual states, where peace officers, fearful of the political result usually dodge the issue.

However, when a subject of a foreign government is lynched by an American mob, the federal government is held responsible, and on several occasions has paid indemnities to families of victims.

Huge Indemnity Paid

Twice this happened in the case of Chinese lynched in Wyoming and California, and twice in cases of Italians lynched in California and Louisiana. The indemnity in all these cases totaled more than a quarter million dollars.

The greatest number of persons done to death by mobs in a single year was 235 in 1892. From year to year since, there has been a steady decline in the toll.

But the time is not here for congratulations. In 1932 there were 10 lynchings in the United States. When a mob in San Jose, Cal., dragged two kidnap-slayers from jail and hanged them in a public park and an enraged throng seized a negro in jail at St. Joseph, Mo., and hanged and burned him, the total to date in 1933 mounted to 27, the highest mark since 1926, when there were 38 lynchings.

Roanoke, Ala., Leader
January 10, 1934

PRESIDENT RAPS LYNCHINGS

For the first time in our memory a president's message mentioned the crime of lynching. It was mentioned along with banditry, kidnaping and have become threats to an orderly society. And under the same heading it called attention to crimes in high places, in which investigations in recent months have revealed certain big institutions having robbed their stockholders and the public. Getting rid of the predatory interests, whether they be found in the criminal's hangout or the counting house, is necessary for the security of the nation.—The Talladega Daily Home.

Marshville, N. C. Home
January 3, 1934

COMMENDS MR. HUNTER IN STOPPING LYNCHINGS

Lancaster News.

Judge Thomas McDow paid quite a the last meeting of the South Carolina bar association. In talking upon the subject of crime he stressed the fact that a debt of gratitude is owed to those officers who do their duty. We quote from his speech in the report of the bar association:

"John P. Hunter of Lancaster county was sheriff for thirty-five or forty years. A crowd gathered in Lancaster on one occasion to lynch a prisoner. The sheriff met them at the gate armed and said to them that if they had gotten the prisoner before he did it would have been all right but the only way to get him now is to kill me and I know you do not wish to do that." The mob dispersed and the cool courage of one of the greatest sheriffs that ever lived in this state prevented a lynching."

When ex-sheriff Hunter read the above he said that he was highly appreciative of the remarks of Mr. McDow. He stated that Roach Catoe and Will Clyburn were the two negroes who murdered Gus Hennis, a white man over 43 years ago and were the men the mob wanted to lynch. These two negroes were tried, found guilty and sentenced to be hung. They were hung by Sheriff Hunter August 1. 1890.

Deland, Fla. Sun
January 10, 1934

AS BAD AS LYNCHINGS

(Crescent City Journal)

Just as an example of what is happening in various sections of the country, where gangsters are using high-jacking methods, we cite the following story taken from a metropolitan newspaper.

A grocery store was visited by two "trade-pullers," the technical name for cheap thugs who try to terrorize owners of small shops into buying from certain dealers. The owner was in the rear of his shop and his wife behind the counter to wait on the supposed customers.

"Where do you buy this bread?!" one of the men asked and when the lady shrugged her shoulders, he demanded, "Where's the boss?"

The husband, anticipating the visit, stepped into a doorway, holding a pistol in his hand. Fire was opened by the three men and on the third shot the grocer fell dead. The men put their weapons into their pockets and walked out without being apprehended.

The prevalence of this type of murder reveals the widespread practice of "trade-pullers" and other racketeers who "muscle in" on legitimate business men. The story is often heard of so-called protective agencies which levy tribute from the class of business men they pretend to protect. The idea is that if the prospect does pay for protection, the gangsters themselves see that he suffers punishment and loss.

That something will have to be done to take care of killings like this, which are frequently found reported from the larger cities, is evident. Such crime in large cities is about the equivalent of the rustic lynching and is as much a disgrace to metropolitan areas.

Nashville, Tenn. Tenne[redacted]
January 8, 1934

Evasion by Lynching.

The New York World Telegram published the other day an interview with a negro boy who had survived a lynching.

Briefly, the story is that one Freddy Moore, negro, was arrested on a charge of killing a white girl in Louisiana. A mob seized him and when he was tortured he confessed and said a boy named Norman Jackson helped him kill the girl.

It happened there was no Norman Jackson in the parish, but a Norman Thibodaux was there on a visit to his grandmother, and the mob took him instead. The two negroes were hanged to a bridge, but before unconsciousnes overtook Thibodaux the bridge tender called to the mob that he could not be guilty because he had arrived for his visit some time after the killing. He was cut down and as he fled into the cane the sheriff and two deputies fired at him. He was arrested in New Orleans when he went to a hospital there to have his wounds dressed.

Two weeks later the girl's stepfather confessed he himself had murdered the girl. An innocent negro had been murdered and another all but killed.

It is an unpleasant story. It shows that in some sections it is still posible for a negro to be lynched for a crime committed by a white man against a white girl. It contains a strong indictment against lynch law. It suggests that the white society of the South, which makes and administers the laws, must give better protection to members of the weaker race which lives alongside it. It must employ peace ofifcers who, instead of participating in lynchings, must oppose them with their lives if need be. It must give accused negroes the same right to a trial in court that is accorded to accused white people. It must discourage the practice of white criminals to throw the blame for their crimes upon helpless negroes in the hope that the lynching of an innocent member of another race might save them from the fate they deserve.

There is no more loathsome form of law evasion than that which is attained by directing suspicion at an innocent person, and the offense is none the less when the innocent person pays with his life.

~~Lynchings-1934~~

Discussions.

White Press, Southern.

4538

Recommends Emergency Trial Law as Remedy For the Lynching Evil

Constitution 34 28

Atlanta Ga.

Editor Constitution: There is much discussion and agitation about some kind of a law to prevent lynching.

Lynching is a crime against God government and society wherever it is committed. The one lynched pays the price of his life without the law or society proving him guilty for the crime for which he is charged. His guilt or innocency is never justly and lawfully proven. If the one lynched is guilty and justly deserves a death penalty, the law and society has been robbed of its right to prove it and execute the sentence. Even the law is also lynched. The criminal or accused is also denied one of the greatest rights he is entitled to—justice in a trial to prove his guilt or innocency.

There are two outstanding causes perhaps of lynching. One is due to the failure of our courts to speedily try those charged with crime and then afterwards too long deliberation and postponement before sentence is finally passed and executed.

The second cause is the pardoning power, freeing the criminal before he serves his sentence. This pardoning power certainly reflects the decision of the court in many instances and gives hope to the criminal.

If our legislators will make and pass some kind of an emergency trial law for such crimes as murder, rape and kidnaping and abolish the pardon commission for interfering with such crimes committed, lynching would end or greatly decrease.

An emergency trial law could be easily enforced. There is not a superior court in the United States of America but what could through the co-operation of the judge, solicitor-general and sheriff arrange and bring to trial any criminal within its jurisdiction within ten days.

Why demand any county to pay a fine where a lynching takes place? You can't buy justice this way. It won't atone for the lynch crime. Society is struggling to see that crime committed and thrust upon it doesn't go unpunished and when our courts awake to the fact that they are in part responsible for many lynchings surely some kind of an emergency trial law would be welcomed.

When the people know a crime committed will certainly be immediately punished, lynching won't become necessary with them to mete out the speedy punishment they feel is proper.

GEORGE N. WOODDALL.

Dallas, Georgia.

January 27, 1934.

Knoxville, Tenn., News-Sentinel

January 20, 1934

League Fails To Vote Ban on Lynching

Women Voters Here Are Divided on Resolution.

A resolution opposing lynching failed to be endorsed by League of Women Voters Thursday after a discussion in which some members of the club said they believed lynching was justifiable in certain cases.

The Wagner-Costigan anti-lynching bill and the expressions of Governor Rolph and Governor McAlister concerning lynching were discussed.

Mrs. Bannister Wilkes introduced a resolution proposing that the League join with other Southern women who recently voted to co-operate with President Roosevelt in abolishing lynching.

Mrs. R. L. Cunningham, president, and several members of the League, however, preferred to go further into the matter before taking any stand.

Prof. E. E. Overton of the U-T Law College, spoke at the meeting on "What Shall We Do About Lynching?" He expressed little hope that the problem of lynching would be solved until public opinion is changed in regard to those taking part in it.

"Lynchers are rarely punished," he said.

The League voted to send a letter to Carrie Chapman Catt, congratulating her on her 75th birthday. She is honorary president of the national League of Women Voters.

It was also voted that the League write the Tennessee Congressmen and Senators asking them to vote for the old age pension bill when it comes up in Congress.

Dalton, Ga., N. Ga. Citizen

January 18, 1934

Lynching

By FRANK T. REYNOLDS

The Negro race has an underground system of "grapevine" telegraph that even its best and most acquainted friends, the Southern white race, cannot fathom. Many years ago a well known Negro youth in Tilton, Whitfield county Georgia, attempted an assault upon a young white girl of that village, about whose home he did chores. He ran away, but was apprehended a few nights later at Sugar Valley, in Gordon county, brought back to Tilton and fully identified by the victim of his attempt. He was started to the Dalton jail that night for safe keeping, under escort of Bailiff George Washington Buffington, of that district, and two deputies. I heard of it, and wired what details I got to the Chattanooga Times, and predicted a lynching, knowing the temper of the people in that section. Early the next morning a Negro from Varnell, in the upper end of the county—eighteen miles from the scene of the attempt—came to Dalton and reported that a lynching had taken place at Cox's Crossing, two miles north of Tilton. With a friend in a two-wheeled "jump-gully," I went to the scene of the lynching, and there found a crowd of perhaps fifty men, women and children. The Negro was hanged just inside a double gate on a small sweetgum tree growing on the farm. His feet were about two feet from the ground, and his ugly, brutish face distorted by the cotton rope around his neck. I never saw a neater nor more carefully tied "sailor's knot" than was on the rope. I questioned Buffington about the details. He told me that he and his two deputies were held up by about twenty-five white-shrouded men, who made him unhitch the horse, mount the Negro on its back, tie the rope, fasten it to the limb and drive the horse from under the Negro. The fingers which tied that knot were by no means nervous ones.

How did the Varnell Negro know of the affair? Will the blacks never learn? Will the whites never realize that law should take its course? Will our courts never teach us? Will a section of this country, which knows nothing of the psychology of the Negro, nor his habits, nor his lack of reasoning, quit trying to regulate another section which is in best position to understand? Trial judges should be selected for qaulification, and elected or appointed for life, and thus relieve them of alleged favoritism or prejudice. Can it and will it be done? No section has proven itself entirely free from lynching, and we gain nothing by the pot calling the skillet black.

We read in Shakespeare's "Measure for Measure": "We must not make a scare-crow of the law, setting up to fear the birds of prey, and let it keep one shape, till custom make it their perch, and not their terror."

Cocoa, Fla., Tribune

January 11, 1934

We read that no lynchings occurred in Florida in 1933. That's encouraging news. People in Florida are prone to let the law take its course. The two most speedy trials, we believe in the state's history occurred in Miami last year. One was when the Italian Zangarri was tried, sentenced and electrocuted for shooting and killing Mayor Cermack of Chicago in Miami, and the other was of two gangsters who were given life for their part in shooting a Miami detective. Both trials were held in a minimum of time and justice was satisfied. Speed up justice, give justice and lawlessness will be minimized all over the Nation.

Gainesville, Ga., Eagle

January 11, 1934

Mob Violance On Decline, Record Of Past Years Reveals

A long trail of lynchings and bloody mob violence leads down through the years of the natoin's history, thousands of persons in all parts of the country having met death at the hands of an infuriated mob.

Since 1889, when records of lynchings were first kept, 3,762 persons have been killed by mob violence. About 2,960 of these were negroes.

Although no figures are available, it is known that American lynching history was even darker before 1889. Outbreaks have declined markedly since the civil war.

Despite a widespread belief that 1933 may set a new record for the number of lynchings, figures show that it will not run far above the average. In 1889 there were 176 lynchings, while the ones this year total only 28. There were only eight in 1932. The 1930 and 1931 totals were 21 and 13, respectively

New Orleans, La., Item
January 26, 1934

Calculated Lynching

A MOB of more than 300 at Hazard, Ky., takes a Negro accused of slugging a white man from jail and lynches him. The slugged man is said to have tried to avenge an insult to two white girls who were with him.

Here are the standard elements of the lynch-drama. But these Kentuckians were not just any mob. "Just before the Negro was hanged, he was asked to say his prayers. He haltingly started to say the Lord's prayer, but stopped after a few words. Then one of the mob said it over slowly, the Negro repeating the words sobbingly after him, and the shot rang out that ended his life." And this;

"About 30 of the men, wearing masks and heavily armed, entered the jail and forced the jailer and turnkey to give them the keys. . . ."

And this: "Several groups of Negroes gathered about the streets after news of the lynching spread about. Officers said there was no threat of further violence, but that they were keeping a close watch on the situation."

Here is a mob-murder that differs somewhat from most lynchings. These lynchers were not frenzied, hysterical, passionate. To protect themselves, they masked the jail-breakers. 'Regardful of their victim's soul, they helped him with prayer.

* * *

THE crime can be appraised only as a carefully and coldly reasoned deed, which could be executed only by men conscious of endorsement of their deed by their community, and themselves convinced that they possessed the moral right as well as the physical power to take a life in defiance of written law.

Some vigilante hanging of pioneer days bore this complexion. When they did they were approved rather than abhorred by the public, no matter how mistaken the judgment of the lynchers, because they were credited with both sanity and sincerity. These are not pioneer days, and Americans of 1934 have not the pioneer's excuse of inadequacy of the law. This Kentucky lynching is thoroughly deplorable. It will do no good, however, to try to shame either the lynchers or the approving bystanders of Hazard as the nation recently shamed those of San Jose.

The most disturbing fact in the Hazard recital is the intimation of race-war possibilities. That must profoundly sadden all those in the South, white as well as black, who have labored under heavy odds for half a century to better the relations between the two races.

Charleston, S. C., News & Courier
January 31, 1934

Denouncing Lynchers

On the point of imposing sentences on twenty-three defendants convicted of a mob outrage in 1925, Judge N. A. Sinclair, of North Carolina, said:

"What is called the unwritten law is nothing in the world but the excuse of cowards to justify their own lawlessness. The old sentiment that because some woman has been wronged you must revert to barbarism and become savages, taking the law into your own hands and redressing such wrong, is a reflection upon civilization. Men who ought to know better from time to time attempt to justify and excuse such conduct. It is absolutely poison running through the state and the men who express such sentiments are bad citizens and a positive menace to the government of the state. That sentiment must be wiped out in North Carolina."

The Baltimore Evening Sun applauds Judge Sinclair's statement from the bench and emphasizes that the trial in that case took place only a month and fifteen days after the commission of the outrage. "Forty-five days after the crime the members of the mob were on their way to prison, and for years there was no more lynching in North Carolina."

In Maryland, ninety-five days after a mob outrage "the grand jury is just being charged." The trial judge charged the grand jury:

"The substitution of mob rule for the orderly administration of the law is not only a backward step from civilization toward barbarism, but the exercise of that rule at times results in the punishment of the innocent or the punishment inflicted is greater than the offender might deserve. The consideration that is to be given and the questions to be determined, in deciding the innocence or guilt of the prisoner, are not properly considered or determined by the excited mob. The conclusion of guilt and the determination to inflict punishment are sometimes reached, based upon little or no consideration."

The Evening Sun finds the foregoing "a mild-mannered dissent from occasional decisions of the mob". All the world "knows that the sort of talk Judge Sinclair made was effective. It will be interesting to see if the sort of talk Judge Patterson made will be equally effective in eliminating the poison now running through Maryland."

Plain-speaking judges of state criminal courts appear to be less common than they were when Judge Sinclair was presiding nearly forty years ago. The let-down of the courts has probably been less pronounced than has been the let-down of the public. The North Carolina judge spoke a language the lynchers could understand whereas the Maryland judge was probably talking over the heads of the defendants. The sort of man who participates in a lynching has no ear for softly-spoken denunciation.

Baton Rouge, La., Advocate
January 26, 1934

SHAMEFUL LYNCHING

We think there is no justification for lynching.

Where a crime has been committed, there is surely a law provided for the punishment of that offense, and there are competent officers to carry out the orders of an orderly government.

Up in Kentucky a negro was lynched the other day, by a band of men who stormed the jail and hung him in a graveyard, leaving scores of bullet wounds in his body.

Perhaps the negro deserved to hang. That is not the issue. If he deserved to hang, there were definite methods of punishment by the courts of law, and if these were not carried out, the officers of the court should have been held accountable. Citizens should not have the blood of an untried man, even if he should be a negro, on their hands. Circumstantial evidence is such a strong thing, and there is always the possibility that a man, who was not tried in a court of law, was not guilty.

It is disgraceful conduct on the part of thinking people, this lynching, and it should be condemned.

Those who have heard of the details of any lynching scene will view it with the proper horror and abhorrence that it deserves.

NASHVILLE, TENN.
EVE. TENNESSEAN

JAN 5 1934

A WOMAN'S VIEW ON LYNCHING

To the Editor:

The Nashville Tennessean, January 2, 1934, reported that three negroes confessed criminally attacking a 17-year-old Mississippi girl near Memphis. Rape is the most heinous crime that can be committed. Another degree of horror to a white victim may be added when the perpetrator is a negro; but, the crime is equally great no matter what the race of the victim, or the criminal. The law should make no discrimination because of race. Penalze the crime, not the race.

At one time from the depths of my soul I believed that identity established, a rapist should be hanged to the nearest limb without unnecessary ado and without savagery—just as a mad-dog, a rattlesnake or a man-eating tiger is killed at the first opportunity—not out of revenge, but to protect others from danger. The savagery and brutalizing effect of mob lynching I have always abhorred. To protect the female of the species against rape is a sound race instinct. I have come to believe, however, that this and all the other protection of person and property can best be accomplished by due process of law. But why are the processes of the law so slow that they permit the accumulated rage of the citizenry to burst out in mob violence?

On January 1 three negro rapists confessed their crime. Why was not the grand jury called in session on January 2 to hear the evidence? If an indictment were returned, why could not the court, in special session on January [illegible] empanel a petit jury and try the case? If a verdict of guilty be returned why not execute the rapists on January 4? What possible adequate reason is there for delay, a long drawn out trial and harrowing the feelings of the people by repeated mention of the case in the newspapers? No defendant should be convicted if there be reasonable doubt of guilt. But would three accused sign a confession if they were not guilty? Other evidence supports the confession. For some reason not accounted for in the reports, newspapers said the aunt and uncle could not identify the negroes, but the victim could. Surely there is evidence enough for immediate presentation to the grand jury, and the district attorney should at once proceed with diligence to prepare the case for trial. The victim and her family should get the tragedy behind them at the earliest possible moment. The public should be relieved of tension and uncertainty. I have always opposed public executions, because like mob lynching they are brutalizing.

It would be a great public service if Judge De Haven would tell the public why the confession, action by the grand jury, trial before a petit jury and execution in the event of conviction should not follow on consecutive days. This is the practical way to suppress mob violence. If there be legal technicalities in the way of such speedy action the legislature should at its next session remove them.

ALICE LLOYD.

Nashville, Tenn.

Lynchings – 1934
&
Discussions

White Press, Southern.

4539

DALLAS, TEX.
NEWS

JUN 29 1934

All U. S. Lynchings Big News In England, Says Meandering Londoner Rambling Over Globe

Horror—that's the reaction in England to lynching in the "States," according to Evelyn Michael Grace, Londoner, who is visiting Dallas for a time while on a meandering trip around the world.

People feel in England that lynching in the States is barbarism, Grace believes. Every lynching in this country is reported over there. The Scottsboro case is considered murder in England, said he.

"We realize there are problems we can't understand," said Grace. But from his conversation one could easily decide that curbing lynching in this country would go a long way toward establishing this country's claim to being civilized.

"Englishmen like Americans much more individually than as a group," Grace said. "If you meet an American personally you get a much better impression than if you meet them in a crowd in Havana or Paris or some place like that," he declared.

The young Englishman left London last March, going to Trinidad, Panama, Jamaica, Havana and Mexico before coming here. He is visiting Harry Lawrence, Dallas artist, whom he met in Mexico recently.

LITTLE ROCK, ARK.
GAZETTE

JUN 25 1934

Fr m the People

(Make your letter as short as possible. If it is more than 500 words, it will be cut or returned. Your name does not have to be published, but don't send an anonymous letter or sign a fictitious name.)

Says South Should Be Freed From Stigma of Lynching.

To the Editor of the Gazette:

I think it is time that all good citizens rise up in righteous indignation and free our beautiful Southland from the stigma of mob rule. This terrible unjust method of punishment got a firm hold on our land just after the Civil war, when lynching was the only method that a white man had to defend his wife and daughters from the dangers incurred when thousands of slaves were freed and set adrift without any means of support and without any knowledge of law or order. The only law these slaves had ever known was the law imposed upon them by their masters. The time has arrived when we can have a just set of laws justly executed if we will only step out and demand it. Negroes are sufficiently enlightened now to know what laws are and how to obey them. If they do not, it is time that we got busy with their educational system. The trial and condemnation of Christ is a typical example of mob trial and execution. This form of government and execution hasn't improved a bit in 1,900 years. Pilate said: "Whom would ye that I should release unto you Christ or Berabbas?" "Then cried they all again, saying, not this man but Barabbas." Pilate said: "I find no fault in him." But they cried out the more "Crucify him, crucify him." In Texas they "hang a nigger" for being seen in company with a low-down white woman, while in Arkansas there dwells a mullato who quite openly and unchallenged calls one white man "daddy" and the man's brother "uncle." Yet that white man hasn't even been tarred and feathered. "Sauce for the goose is sauce for the gander." If you are going to hang one Negro, I'll wager you ought to hang 50 white men for the same offense. Any man white or black, who attacks an innocent woman deserves death, but if the woman is as guilty as the man she deserves the same punishment as the man. A Negro man knows that it is certain death to be seen with a white woman, while a white man knows that he not only won't have to marry a Negro woman but won't even have to support her children, no matter how often he is seen with her. I think that the just thing would be to sterilize white men who commit this terrible social crime.

Dell Stevens Hartzell.
Conway, Ark.

Atlanta
Constitution

OFFICERS ARE BLAMED IN SOUTH'S LYNCHINGS

Dr. W. W. Alexander, executive director of the commission on interracial co-operation, Wednesday said citizens should hold their officers "directly responsible for 'protection of society against such outrages'" as lynchings.

Dr. Alexander pointed out there had been five lynchings in five weeks in the south and said the "epidemic" in Louisiana, Mississippi, Tennessee and Texas "points to the need of redoubled vigilance."

"Southern sheriffs and peace officers can prevent such occurences if they will," he added.

GREENSBORO, N. C.
NEWS

JUN 28 1934

ONE DETAIL SETTLED.

As diabolical a demonstration as the south's bloody racial record has to offer is that which the border state of Tennessee has submitted these last few days.

A group of young white fellows went to a negro dance. Obviously they had no business there, and press reports fail to state why they took it unto themselves to go unless in the attitude of looking for trouble. Anyway, they started or found it, as a negro slapped one of them. That night a band wreaked vengeance. Not content with invading the negro's home, wrecking it and its contents, they captured the householder and took him off with them.

The rest is a sickening story which must have long since been memorized. Some hours later his nude body was found in a near by field. He had been shot four times and beaten with what authorities believed to have been an axe.

Then followed the denouement which settled at least one detail in connection with the crime and its classification. Eight white men were speedily arrested on evidence given by a small boy, the stepson of one of them, and lodged in jail to face charges of murder. Their conviction is, of course, a long way off; but their arrest in itself must be hailed as decided progress even if it did occur in a border state and not the deep south.

As for the detail which was clarified. The negro's slaying was patently a murder and not a lynching, a question which is ever argued in southern states where racial slayings thrive and more especially in those where fines are decreed by law against the county in which a lynching occurs. Most positively, the Tennessee crime is and was a murder. An orthodox lynching could not possibly have been productive, not even days or months, much less a few hours, after, of the arrest of a group of young white bucks and their remand to the jail house in their home community.

DALLAS, TEX.
NEWS

JUN 28 1934

Witt Takes Stand To Stop Lynching If He's Elected

First of Candidates to Reply to Southern Woman's Council Quiz

Edgar Witt, first candidate for Governor to reply to a questionnaire directed to all seven by the Texas Council of Southern Women for the Prevention of Lynching, has written that if elected he will use the full power of his office to see that there are no lynchings in Texas while he is Governor. Mrs. John M. Hanna, Dallas, chairman of the council, said Wednesday.

Mrs. Hanna said she also received a reply from the secretary to Tom F. Hunter, who assured her that Hunter is opposed to law violations of all kinds, including lynching and that he will reply shortly to her communication.

Expects All to Answer.

"The questionnaire was sent out last Saturday," she explained, "and I feel sure that each of the seven candidates now seeking the Democratic nomination will gladly state their position on this important matter."

The Texas Council, Mrs. Hanna explained, is part of the Association of Southern Women for the Prevention of Lynching and has 2,250 active groups in fourteen States. She said 17,000 Southern women are affiliated in this group which declares lynching to be an indefensible crime and have pledged themselves to create a new public attitude throughout the South which will not condone acts of mobs or lynchers for any reason. She said the high lynching record of the South has resulted from the too ready acceptance of the claim of lynchers and mobsters that they were acting solely in the defense of womanhood.

Recalls Kirbyville Case.

In her letter to candidates for Governor Mrs. Hanna said that the recent brutal lynching at Kirbyville was a deplorable example and that public opinion must cease to condone such atrocities, no matter what the provocation and that the supremacy of the law should be upheld at all costs.

The questionnaire asks if the candidate believes lynching is ever justified, if elected, will he use full power to prevent outbreaks of mob violence and if elected, will he support legislation to deal adequately with mobs and to prevent such outbreaks and to apprehend and punish lynchers.

Oklahoma City, Okla.
TIMES

JUN 30 1934

Lynching Law Teeth Needed, Group Is Told

Racial Conference Informed Wider State Power Is Essential.

Increased state power to investigate and prosecute lynchings was urged by O. K. Armstrong, Springfield, member of the Missouri state legislature, at the Saturday session of the national conference of the Association for Advancement of Colored People.

Armstrong urged better co-operation between state and local authorities in handling lynchings and also appealed for more state power in making a change of venue.

Cites Missouri Case

He cited the recent Maryville, Mo., lynching in which national guardsmen watched the parade, helpless to do anything without orders, as a case pointing to the need of greater co-operation.

Armstrong presented an anti-lynching bill in the last session of the legislature, and will push the measure again at the next session, he said.

Routine reports from branches of the association were read to the morning session.

Discussion of two Oklahoma Negro cases will feature Saturday night's session of the conference.

Larson Will Talk

Jess Larson, Chickasha, will talk on city government and its inter-racial problems. Larson was mayor of Chickasha at the time of the Negro lynching in 1930.

Roscoe Dundee, editor of the Black Dispatch, will discuss the Jess Hollins case which came up in Sapulpa in 1931. He will compare this case with the famous Scottsboro case.

"Youth's Part in the Fight for Race Rights" will be subject of Miss Juanita E. Jackson, Baltimore. Miss Jackson is president of the Baltimore city-wide forum.

Will Hear DePriest

Climaxing the four-day conference will be the inter-racial meeting at 2:30 p. m. Sunday at which Walter White, secretary of the association, and Oscar DePriest, Chicago Negro congressman, will talk. The final session will be at the First Presbyterian church, 1001 North Robinson avenue.

White will discuss the growth of liberalism on the race question in the south, and will urge an "unending war" on segregation and other discriminations against the Negro.

Medal Awarded

The secretary has been active in inter-racial work since 1918 and has written a number of books on the Negro, including several studies of lynching.

DePriest will arrive Saturday afternoon. He will be met at the train by a parade from the Negro section of town.

The Spingarn medal for distinguished work in the field of Negro education was awarded Friday night to W. T. B. Williams, dean of the college of Tuskegee Institute, Ala. A harsh indictment of "Jim Crow" laws and segregation was made by William Pickens, field secretary, at the Friday night session.

Booneville, Miss. Independent
June 22, 1934

WANTS LYNCHING BILL

The Progressive is the organ of the LaFollettes in Wisconsin. It was established by "old Bob", who was one of the real big men of the middle-west. It is now being published by the sons, Senator Bob and former Gov. Phil. They are able young men and stand for much that is progressive and right. They have strong leanings in favor of negroes. They came near having fits about the Scottsboro case in Alabama and now they are pushing hard for the anti-lynching bill which has been proposed in congress. No good citizen wants to see lynching and no good citizen advocates it as a matter of policy but our friends of the north get "beyond themselves" at times on this lynching subject and take a stand entirely unreasonable and untenable. Such is the case in this anti-lynching bill. The LaFollette paper carried the following news dispatch from Washington last week.

WASHINGTON, D. C.—There is still hope for a vote on the Costigan-Wagner anti-lynching bill at this session. If negotiations now in progress are successful, debate will be limited and a vote taken prior to adjournment.

Senators Costigan and Wagner conferred with Pres. Roosevelt last week, but no word on the anti-lynching measure was given out although it is known they discussed it thoroughly with the chief executive.

It is expected that a conference will be held soon among key senators which will seek an agreement to limit debate on the bill to two hours and allow a vote to be taken.

Sen. Joseph Robinson of Arkansas, leader of the senate, is the key man in these negotiations. If he can be persuaded, all well and good; if not then there is little chance of any action on the bill.

Among the remarks going the rounds is one said to have been made by Sen. Hubert D. Stephens of Mississippi to the effect that the anti-lynching bill would be passed only "over my dead body."

Sen. Walter George of Georgia is also known as open foe of the bill, but he is not as violent as Sen. Stephens. Sen Robinson, senate leader, is cool, but not openly hostile.

We don't know whether Sen. Stephens made the statement attributed to him or not but if he did he is not so far wrong. There are certain times of the moon when lynching simply can not be prevented and there is not use making a bad matter worse by federal laws that would not be and could not be enforced. What we should all do is to be good citizens, talk up and live a high ideal of citizenship and try to get our common country on a basis of higher political living. We are getting on dangerous ground when we allow the federal government to take over powers that properly belong to the states. That one question has caused bloodshed in this country and we should go slow on it. Let each state have its own laws on murder and prosecute its own crime. There is no good reason beneath the stars why there should be a federal law against lynching any more than against common murder or other forms of crime. Congress is going entirely too far in an effort to interfere with the rights of states and had better let this thing alone.

SPARTANBURG, S. C.
JOURNAL

JUN 11 1934

Double Lynching

The South will not have a clean slate as to lynchings for 1934, a Mississippi mob having done to death two negro men who confessed to attempting to assault ~~a white~~ woman. Lynchings are confined to no particular section, but there have been far too many of them in the South. One lynching anywhere is just one too many. It is the quintessence of anarchy and mob law. Enlightened public sentiment, education and a marked increase in respect for law and order will do much to minimize this outcropping of barbarism. One of the encouraging features of the crusade against lynching is the active interest the women of the South display in attempting to suppress it. Some day, it is to be hoped, the citizenship will become civilized enough to let the law have its course.

Shreveport, La., Journal
July 11, 1934

Inexcusable.

Morehouse parish is being criticised because of inexcusable lawlessness which brought it shame at the hands of the mob at Bastrop. Investigation by parochial and municipal authorities, with a view to submitting evidence to the grand jury at its next regular session, is under way. For the sake of law and order, all citizens who oppose the illegal taking of life will be in hearty sympathy with those conducting the investigation. They will entertain the hope that the authorities will learn the identity of members of the mob and collect enough information to warrant indictments and convictions.

If, as reported, approximately three hundred persons took part in lynching the negro, accused of attacking a young white woman, there surely ought to be evidence available to connect some of them with the crime. The victim was forcibly removed from the jail at Bastrop and hanged from a tree limb on the court square. Doubtless there we witnesses, although the lynching occurred at nigh

The experience Morehouse parish is having trying to bring to justice those responsible for thi outrage against orderly government is similar, o course, to that many other communities have ha in times gone by. It is the customary result tha nobody is punished. Usually there is nobody willing to furnish information involving any of th lynchers, due to fear or indifference, and when thi spirit controls, of course, it is next to impossibl to bring any offenders before the courts for prosecution.

We do not advance the belief that the mob's victim got less than he deserved, judging by reports of the criminal offense alleged. But the punishment was inflicted in the wrong manner. Those who dealt it were guilty of vicious lawlessness themselves. They brought disgrace to the community in which they pulled off their gruesome demonstration. They gave law and order a serious setback. They permitted their brutal impulses to ignore constituted authority, which must prevail if life and property are to be held in security and the reputation of the state in having respect for government is to be protected.

Some outside "international" organization with a rather long name has made protest, holding the sheriff and police chief "responsible" for the lynching and demanding "immediate arrests," etc. That sort of attempted interference gets nowhere; rather, it usually tends to cause resentment and handicaps an investigation. The effort to punish the Bastrop mob members belongs to the Louisiana authorities, particularly those elected by the citizens of Morehouse parish and the city of Bastrop. It is not the business of any "international" outfit, and the sooner meddlers of this type are given to understand that their "demands" are unwelcome, the better off will the situation be. We have high regard for the citizenship of the community which is having this lynching outrage to handle, and feel that a genuine effort will be made to prosecute members of the mob, if they are revealed, and also that steps will be taken to prevent any additional occurrence of this kind. The whole state should be watching for and expecting law-respecting developments. If the homefolks can not get the results, nobody else can, and outside "demands" are absolutely silly and presumptuous.

NEW ORLEANS, LA.
ITEM
AUG 7 1934

An Unusual Lynching

CADDO PARISH reports the lynching by a Negro mob of a member of its own race. That is unusual but not unique. It is very unfortunate, however, as an example to violent white folk. The Negro has a right to complain of the treatment his race frequently receives at the hands of white mobs. White men too are often lynched, but most victims of this barbarous crime in this part of the country are colored.

The Negroes, as a matter of consistency, should be especially on their guard agains acts or impulses that could be cited in ustification of the savagery of lynching when practiced by others. This Cadd pisode might be palliated by those par- icipating in it only on the ground chosen y Shylock before his judges, "The villany e have taught me I will execute." The cident contains an admonition and a proach for both races.

CHARLOTTE, N. C.
NEWS

AUG 6 1934

Where the Fault Lies.

In Shreveport, Louisiana, there was a lynching Saturday. Lynchings are no novelty in that section of the country, but this one was unique in that a Negro was lynched by a mob ~~composed~~ of members of his own race.

Brutality was dispensed with as much largesse in this affair, however, as is customary in the orthodox parties where a black neck is host to a rope provided by white men. The victim was stripped and beaten with pine knots. A woman living nearby heard his screams for a quarter of an hour, after which there was silence.

But, if there was no less than the usual inhumanity of man to man in this Shreveport lynching, there was, we suspect, more than usual justification for it. The dead blackamoor had forced a Negro girl of the community to go with him on an expedition which was certain to have ended tragically for her, and the white man's justice is notoriously indifferent to rape unless a white woman is victimized.

Pointedly, we have not forgotten the five-year-old Negro girl of a Mecklenburg community assaulted last April by a brute of her own color who has never been and probably never will be caught. If there is any excuse for taking retribution into one's own hands it is when the regular agencies are unconcerned.

Lynchings-1933 & Discussions.

White Press Southern.

4540

OCKY MOUNT, N. C. TELEGRAM

JUL 11 1934

Lynching in Louisiana

The mob murder of a young Louisiana Negro, charged with an attempted attack on a young woman, has the aspects of extraordinary brutality. It is reported that he confessed to having tried to pull a woman through a fence in the dark for the purpose of criminally attacking her. He could not have been identified and we doubt that he confessed without having been subjected to mistreatment.

However, he was left in an unguarded little country jail. The sheriff said that he was powerless to prevent the lynching. No night marshall guarded the jail and the chief of police of Bastrop, La., where the Negro was held, was out of town. A mob formed and the door was battered down without the interference of officials. The Negro was found crouched in a corner of his cell, protesting his innocence and pleading for mercy.

He was forced to stand on top of an automobile, a rope tied about his neck. But when he was pushed from the car, the rope broke and the Negro fell to the ground. An "unidentified" man in the mob slashed his throat as he lay there. As the Negro bled another and stronger rope was secured. He was successfully hanged on the second attempt. After the mob dispersed the sheriff arrived in time to aid in cutting down the body. He was quoted as saying he could do nothing to prevent the murder.

We cannot understand how the people of Bastrop, La., feel today as they have an opportunity to reflect on this demonstration of savage brutality. Possibly some of them feel a crime, or an attempted crime, has been avenged. Those with blood on their hands will live for years before they forget their part, especially as the years pass and they become more and more convinced the Negro could have been innocent. We have an idea some of them will be awakened at night with the screams of this terrified black, pleading for mercy, ringing in their ears. That is one of the punishments that cannot be avoided.

Another angle to be considered is the spectacle the lynching created. This portion of Louisiana is supposed to be a section of the nation where chivalry prevails, where church membership is most inclusive. Yet, a mob of several hundred men engage in a torture murder, deliberately planned and executed. The sheriff, sworn to uphold the law and probably on speaking acquaintence with every man in the mob—men he has solicited for votes—will be unable to identify a single one. Men who take part in lynchings, generally, would be the first to complain about the sanctity of their constitutional rights, to insist on the last degree of protection from society if their rights were infringed upon. But it is mockery to ask protection from law, to sing praises to the guarantees of the constitution and then batter down a jail door and lynch an ignorant Negro without giving him the privilege of defending himself.

Jackson, Ga., Progress-Argus
August 17, 1934

WITH THE EXCHANGES

Unusual Kind of Lynching

Lousiana had a lynching last week, which was not unsual in itself, but the kind of lynching was different. A negro man insulted a negro woman, then carried her off in an auto, and ran into a truck. A mob of enraged negroes took out after the brute, captured him and proceeded to lynch the beast.—Tifton Gazette.

Cartersville, Ga., News
August 16, 1934

Over in Mississippi they hanged two negroes charged with killing an officer. Some day the black boys are going to learn they can't get away with any such dastardly deeds, and then everybody will be better off.

Tifton, Ga. Gazette
August 6, 1934

Louisiana had a lynching last week, which was not unusual in itself, but the kind of lynching was different. A negro man insulted a negro woman, then carried her off in an auto, and ran into a truck. A mob of enraged negroes took out after the brute, captured him, and proceeded to lynch the beast.

Tarboro, N. C. Southerner
August 6, 1934

REFRESHING LYNCHING

At Bethany, Louisiana, has occurred a lynching which is quite refreshing. For the first time in the history of the South, a Negro has been lynched by members of his own race. A band of Negro men took one [illegible] Page, who according to the Associated Press "offered an insult to a young Negro girl" and beat him to death with pine knots.

In general, this newspaper has no word of approval for lynchings, nor does it condone the recent one in Bethany, Louisiana. But it is sick and tired of hearing Northern critics brand the South as an "unprincipled, barbaric people with a superabundance of race consciousness" every time a Negro is lynched.

It has always been our belief that lynchings in the South do not reflect race consciousness so much as they reflect plain, ordinary hot-headedness. By this we mean that Negro attackers of white women are not lynched because they are Negroes but because they have committed what in the South is considered by some the most cardinal of sins. The fact that most lynch victims in the South are Negroes is merely due to the fact that most cases of rape are committed by Negroes.

Be that as it may, whenever a Negro is lynched, there arises a great bellow from such organizations as the Civil Liberties Union, the Society for the Advancement of Colored People and other Northern sympathizers who do not understand the situation. Their one cry is "race discrimination," a cry which, it will be remembered, was often repeated in the elongated trial of the "Scottsboro boys".

But here is something new, a Negro lynched by Negroes. We would be willing to bet those societies looking to the advancement of the Negro race, which ought to be just as concerned about the welfare of the race regardless of by whom a lynching may have been committed on a member of it, will say not a word about the recent affair in Louisiana.

BATON ROUGE, LA. ADVOCATE

JUL 11 1934

NOTHING SO DISGRACEFUL AS LYNCHING

There is nothing in the world so disgraceful to a community as a lynching party which takes the law into its hands, walks into a jail cell, and takes a man out for hanging without giving him the benefit of trial.

Regardless of how low we are in the system of things, and regardless of the nature of our offense against society, each of us is entitled to a trial by a jury in the legal manner that we, ourselves, have provided.

There is necessity for law and order in a community. For the sake of those who obey the law, there must be enforcement of laws which keep other persons from taking those things which we value—our lives, our possessions, our liberty, and our happiness.

It is readily admitted that some crimes are worse than others. And very, very frequently we hear the statement: "Hanging's too good for him!" Maybe it is, but it is the way that we have provided to deal with the man who takes the life of another, and it is dangerous and very terrible business when a group of citizens takes the law into their hands and hangs a man.

The hanging of criminals, this lynching party, is not confined to the South by any manner of means. Stories come from all parts of the United States, perfectly terrible stories of such deeds. Society frowns on them. Baton Rougeans, reading the accounts, are struck by the terrible crime of killing a man without trial. That is not civilization.

DEPLORE DUAL LYNCHING

Mississippi Group is "Humiliated" Over Benton Incident

Commercial Appeal

M'COMB, Miss., Aug. 16.—Mrs. L. W. Alford, McComb, chairman Mississippi Association for Prevention of Lynching, tonight issued a statement deploring the recent double lynching which occurred in Benton County. 8-17-34

"The association's membership of 3,500 citizens is unalterably opposed to this crime," the statement read. "We are humiliated over the state's lynching record for 1934. We believe it defeats the end of justice. It blackens the reputation of any state, it cripples a race and it handicaps a nation."

The statement was signed by the chairman and the following vice chairmen. Memphis, Tenn.

Mrs. J. Morgan Stevens, Mrs. T. D. Bratton and Mrs. W. W. Epperson, Jackson; Mrs. A. J. Aben, Clinton, and Mrs. Lester ~~Greet~~ of Potts Camp.

DAYTON, O
NEWS

AUG 26 1934

Significant Figures

During the first five months of this year there were but two lynchings in the entire country. Throughout that period there was a possibility that congress might pass the federal anti-lynching bill, providing severe federal penalties for lynchers and local officials failing to resist them, and levying heavy fines on communities in which the crimes occur.

The bill was pigeon-holed about June 1. Since that time there have been 12 lynchings, an average of more than one a week. None of the mob leaders has been punished. If the record of the past holds, none will be. Whether of not the surprising difference in the number of lynchings during the two periods is the result of the threat of federal action in the one case and removal of the threat in the other, it would be worth passing the Wagner-Costigan bill to make sure.

As the National Association For the Advancement of Colored People points out in an appeal to the president, "the parade of bold mob murders" is proof that "the states are unwilling or unable to check lynching, and that the only method left is the invocation of the power of the federal government." The problem is one on which congress should act in the next session.

JACKSON, MISS.
NEWS

UG 18 1934

Anti-Lynching Unit Deplores Benton Deaths

McCOMB, Aug. 17—The double lynching of two negroes in Benton county was deplored in a statement issued here by the Mississippi Association for Prevention of Lynching. The negroes were taken from officers and "hanged by mobs while they were being taken to the court to stand trial for the slaying of an officer who was investigating a killing."

"The Mississippi Association for Prevention of Lynching deplores the recent double lynching in Benton county," said the statement. It was issued by Mrs. L. W. Alford, of McComb, chairman, and others of the association.

"Its membership of 3,500 citizens are unalterably opposed to this crime," said the statement. "We are humiliated over the state's lynching record for 1934. We believe lynching defeats the ends of justice, blackens the reputation of any state, cripples a race and handicaps a nation."

Shades of Tom Watson!

About the worst and most conspicuous, outstanding black eye that Georgia ever got was the lynching of Leo Frank, after he had been put in the state penitentiary, his sentence having been commuted by Governor Slaton. Thomas E. Watson, of Thomson, Ga., condemned his commutation and a mob came down from Marietta and broke into the penitentiary and took Frank from there back to Marietta and lynched him.

Macon Telegraph 8-18-34 Macon Ga.

There were all kinds of charges against Slaton by Watson, the outstanding one being that Slaton had been bribed by outside money to commute Frank's sentence after he had been found guilty by a Fulton County jury and had been duly sentenced to hang.

Frank was a white man, who was found guilty of having raped a little white girl in an Atlanta pencil factory.

We always sympathized with Governor Slaton. In our opinion he did his solemn duty, according to his oath of office, and there was no outside consideration, monetary or otherwise, of any kind.

Watson made much of the fact that Slaton's name appeared upon the office door as a member of the law firm which represented Frank in the appeal for commutation upon which Slaton passed favorably. And Watson charged that Slaton had received a part of the fee or otherwise profited by reason of this law-firm connection.

Our own opinion was that Slaton should never have handled the case. Because of his having been a member of the law firm, and the fact that there was a basis for the charges Watson afterward made against him, Slaton should have refused to act, but simply granted a respite to Frank which would have passed the case over to his successor.

If that had been done, Slaton would still be at the top of the ladder in Georgia politics. He would have been a power in Georgia, and there is probably no office that wouldn't have been his for the asking.

Instead of that, regardless of the humiliation involved in the mentioning of it, what happened to Slaton for having commuted the sentence of a white man found guilty of raping a little white girl in an Atlanta pencil factory?

In the last election in which Slaton submitted his name to the people for public office Slaton carried one county in Georgia.

Look on that picture, and then on this:

A Negro, who by his crime condemned himself as worse than a brute, found a white farmer's wife alone in her home; she was in the kitchen preparing dinner, for her husband, at work in the field, like any good woman would have been doing. Without warning or previous indication of any kind, there suddenly stood before her the most loathsome type of creature in human form. He had a pistol in his hand, and without giving her a chance to obey his commands, he beat her over the head and body with his gun. She seized a knife to protect herself, and the brute took the knife away from her and slashed her body with it; he knocked her down with his pistol, and she swears he ravished her—and he admits it. After that he left her, to die.

The wife who had been so cruelly outraged and left for dead made her way to her front porch and screamed for help. A neighbor reached her house pretty soon, and described the Negro's victim as the worst looking object she ever beheld, screaming for help, bloody as a beef, and suffering all the pangs and horrors it was possible for her to have been afflicted with.

The Negro was apprehended, unquestionably identified, was duly indicted for rape, and brought to trial, found guilty, and sentenced to be electrocuted. A motion for a new trial was filed, and the case was taken before the Prison Commission, just as in the Frank case, asking for a commutation. After the application had been rejected by Governors Russell and Talmadge, the trial judge in the case thereupon granted the moth-eaten motion for a new trial; he had the Negro rapist brought before him without the defending attorney or any witnesses, it is charged; he arranged for the Negro to plead guilty to the charges of rape in the indictment, and thereupon sentenced him to 20 years in the penitentiary, instead of electrocution.

Macon Telegraph 8-18-34 Macon Ga.

The laws of Georgia say that if a person is guilty of rape the penalty shall be death, unless he be recommended to the mercy of the court by the jury. In this case there was no recommendation, and the Negro pleaded guilty to rape in the second trial before the judge.

The Negro must have been guilty of rape—at least under the law he was, for the Negro said so. And who knows better than the Negro? And yet in the face of the solemn requirement of the law to sentence him to death, the judge sentenced him to 20 years in the penitentiary—under the claim that the Negro wasn't bright.

This Negro brute escaped from the chain gang to which he was sent, and is today at large. He was bright enough to rape a white woman by slipping into her house when he knew she was alone; he was bright enough to carry with him a deadly weapon with which to intimidate her and beat her up, and he was bright enough to make a couch of her kitchen floor where she had to submit to him. He was bright enough to take the knife away from her with which she was trying to defend herself and to cut her into shreds with it. He was bright enough after having been put on the chain gang to make his escape from it. He is bright enough after having made his escape to still be at large.

We said at the outset that we always regretted the Leo Frank case, and regretted what came to Jack Slaton as a result of the commutation of that sentence.

But, shades of Tam Watson, where are you today? There is a man here who has openly and flagrantly violated the laws of Georgia, written as plainly and definitely as they can be written, who is asking the people to elect him governor of this state. He has done worse than Jack Slaton did, because so far as is known Slaton stayed within the law. The people simply believed he had gone beyond it.

But in this present case the plain law has been trampled under foot. And for what? To save the life of a Negro rapist who outraged a defenseless white woman in her own home.

The judge wanted to save him because he was not bright. And today he is running at large over Georgia or some other state to repeat his crime at will.

Macon Telegraph 8-18-34 Macon Ga.

Make Pittman Governor of Georgia, with such a record as that? Pittman deserves a worse fate than was ever meted out to Jack Slaton, and the probability is that if Tom Watson were here and the old fire of indignation burned as it once did, Pittman wouldn't carry even the one county that Slaton carried.

Make Pittman Governor—like hell!

Lynchings-1934
6
Discussions.

White Press, Southern.

4541

Chattanooga, Tenn.
NEWS

JUN 4 1934

Against Lynching

STRIKING at the ~~lynching~~ evil the Tennessee Bar Association took an advanced stand at its convention in Memphis Saturday. The lawyers went on record as favoring an anti-lynching bill. Briefly, the measure would provide that all sheriffs and police chiefs are to be automatically suspended by the Governor when a lynching occurs in their jurisdiction.

Within thirty days the suspended official must file suit for reinstatement in Circuit Court, and the Court will review all the evidence. If it is shown that the officer was not negligent and that he did all that he could to frustrate the mob, then he is to be reinstated with full back pay. The bill would not apply to the lynching of anyone not under arrest, as it would be impossible for an officer, of course, to anticipate the sudden mobbing of a culprit still sought by the law.

Whether this bill would go very far to curb lynchings, we do not know. Steady education of the poeple so that inflamed passions will not sway them into lynchings is still the best cure for the lynching evil. But it is heartening to see the interest shown by the State Bar Association.

Chattanooga, Tenn. News
June 4, 1934

Against Lynching

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RICHMOND, VA.
TIMES DISPATCH
AUG 20 1934

As It Appears to

The Cavalier

ON THE 13th of this month, a mob of head-hunters in Mississippi, took two colored men from the officers who had them under arrest, and lynched them in the usual mob-manner. This was a modest lot of murderers. They all wore masks. They did not want to make a parade of their virtue.

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Lynching is the beam in the American eye to which we have grown so accustomed that an incident such as this attracts only the most casual attention and yet nothing could be a greater reproach and shame to white civilization in the South. Had a kindred outrage occurred in Europe, we should have been bawling out execration of the whole nation.

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Mob murder in the South is regarded only as a Southern excentricity, the ebbulition of the impulsive and warm-blooded Southern spirit. Because the gang of ruffians who murdered these two Negroes was recruited from the social sub-stratum of Mississippi does not help to restore the good repute of the State which they have disgraced. They have not only murdered two Negro citizens, they have murdered the good name and fame of their State.

That these murderers knew they were committing a crime and wished to avoid the consequences of that crime is shown by the fact that they were all masked. Men do not set out on a virtuous enterprise wearing masks. Whoever wears a mask in the commission of any act does so to protect himself from the consequences of that act. The Mississippi killers wore masks for the same reason that the burglar wears a mask.

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It cannot be possible that these masked killers believed that they were defenders of Mississippi honor or the executors of Mississippi justice. Had they thought this, they would have been proud of their act and would not have sought to hide it behind a mask. The spirit of justice never prompts a lynching. The spirit of hatred and revenge is behind all these mass-murders.

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Among the savages when a murder, or even accidental killing occurs the members of the family of the slain man believe that it is their duty to avenge him. To do this they do not have to kill the actual slayer. To kill some member of the family of the slayer is adequate atonement and satisfies the blood vengeance.

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So it is with the white savages of the South. A white man is murdered or white woman is raped by a Negro man. Anybody suspected of the crime or in any way connected with it is a satisfactory victim of their blood-vengeance.

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From Mississippi comes the familiar blather about the activity of the authorities and their intention to discover the perpetrators of the crime and bring them to justice. The deputies who had the lunched men in custody have been quick to declare that they did not recognize any of the criminals in the mob.

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The judge before whose court the Negroes were being taken for trial has ordered the grand jury to make a thorough investigation of the crime. With the officers protesting that they did not recognize anybody in the gang of lynchers, it is easy to imagine what the result of the grand jury's investigation will be.

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Had the craven mob been unmasked and had it advertised its intention in the local newspapers, and had it gone to its appointment accompanied by a brass band, there would still be no true bills found by the grand jury.

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Not long ago, in a town on the Eastern Shore of Maryland, a mob murder was committed in the daytime. The lynchers were unmasked. They committed their crime in the presence of a large crowd and were harangued by the local authorities who endeavored to dissuade them from their guilty purpose. The grand jury did not indict anybody. Nobody was found who would testify who the perpetrators were.

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The neighborhood was apparently solid in its support of the sadistic heroes. The attempt of the governor of Maryland was bitterly resented. His expressed opposition to such enterprises has made him very unpopular in the community in which the lynching took place.

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Civilized people do not have any hand in lynchings. A civilized man does not imagine that it is more righteous for a 100 men to kill somebody than for one man to kill him. We might as well face the inescapable logic of lynchings. They are committed because under our superficial gloss of civilization, savagery is still rampant.

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Men are not civilized because they wear the clothes of civilization, eat the food of civilization, live in the house of civilization and use the tools and toys of civilization. Civilization is the result of a mental and spiritual growth, and is a thing for which our Piltdown populations are not yet prepared. It is perhaps something which must always remain the exclusive possession of the elect few.

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Man is first of all an animal, with all the instinctive feral ferocities. Civilization is something which he constantly resents and chafes under. Ethical conceptions mean to the most of him what a parrot's talk means to a parrot.

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Such passions as hate, revenge and the lust of blood are primative and a part of him. At the first excitement of these natural passions his artificial civilization falls off him like a loosened garment. Mankind, in the mass, is much closer to canibalism than to civilization.

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The Mississippi mob, like all other murder-mobs, followed its natural instincts, which are the instincts of the savage. They slaughtered their victims because of the satisfaction which that slaughter gave them.

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The district attorney has promised a "rigid investigation" of the Mississippi murders. He will discover nothing. Should the men admit their participation, no jury in that community would convict one of them. Their act expreses the conscience of the community.

THOMAS LOMAX HUNTER.

Macon, Ga., Telegraph
August 29, 1934

AS ANOTHER SEES IT

To the Editor of The Telegraph:

Your editorial "Shades of Tom Watson" appearing in The Telegraph on Saturday, August 18, was to my mind one of the most disappointing pieces of work ever to appear in your paper since I have been a reader of it. Certainly it was not the shades of Tom Watson. It was the darkness of blind prejudice and ignorance.

For years you have held yourself up as the champion of the Negro's cause. You have, editorially, opposed low wages for the Negro; you have opposed lynching; you have opposed unnecessary discrimination against the Negro.

Yet in the above mentioned editorial, in order that you might find a last straw on which to support Talmadge, you threw away your policy toward the Negro, and with one stroke of the pen cast aside that for which your paper has supposedly stood for fifteen years.

You did more in this one editorial to destroy what intelligent people in Georgia have accomplished to wipe out lynching than any other one thing, or combination of things, that has happened in recent years. Just how an editor could allow such an editorial to get into his paper is a mystery.

If you intended by that editorial to secure votes for Talmadge, then it was a miserable failure. But if you intended to destroy faith in and respect for The Telegraph, then you succeeded wonderfully.

Macon, Ga. TOM JOHNSON.

COLUMBIA, S. C.
RECORD
AUG 20 193[illegible]

Imitating the Whites.

The Louisiana negroes who imitated the whites by lynching a negro for an insult to a negro woman were like all lynchers so many fools playing with fire.

They had apparently learned their lesson from the whites letter perfect. Grafton Page, their 30-year-old victim, was found dead tied to a tree limb. He had been stripped and beaten to death with pine knots during the night.

Page, described by officers as a "bully" and "trouble maker" among the negroes, doubtless deserved punishment and probably the community is better off without him.

But lynchings, when they do not result in the punishment of they lynchers and this all-negro lynching is apparently following the normal pattern in this as well as in its barbarity, breed other lynchings. They are the negation of law enforcement and observance. The negroes in Louisiana have put themselves therefore in the position of approving and encouraging lynching. And, to the disgrace of the whites, the negroes have more to fear from the encouragement of lynching than the whites. In 1930 there were 21 persons lynched in the United States. One was a foreign born white man; 20 were negroes.

A Lynching a Week

From Jan. 1 to June 1, there were two lynchings in the United States. Since June 1, there have been 12 lynchings.

Prior to June 1 the Wagner-Costigan federal anti-lynching bill was a live issue in congress. It provided drastic federal punishment of lynchers and local officers who fail to resist lynch mobs, and assessed heavy fines against the communities in which lynchings occur. Apparently this threat of federal interference was a strong deterrent to lynching in the first five months of the year.

This threat was removed about June 1 when the Wagner-Costigan bill was pigeonholed. Since that date, mob murders have proceeded at the rate of more than one a week. In none of the instances have lynchers been punished, nor is it likely that any will be punished.

At the next session of congress, the president should give to the Wagner-Costigan bill more than his tacit approval.

Chattanooga, Tenn.
NEWS

Premeditated

TWO Negroes were lynched by ~~two mobs in~~ Benton County, Mississippi, Monday. They were taken from officers, who seem to have offered no resistance. The Negroes were accused of a murder which occured over a year ago. They were being taken to a County courthouse for trial.

Lynchings are usually explained as being due to sudden anger, inflamed in mobs, by brutal crimes. But here was a case where the mobs had an entire year in which to cool off. This was not a case of an infuriated populace losing control of itself. It was a coldly premeditated outrage. It is such instances as this that makes us despair of removing the lynching blot from the South.

MACON, GA.
NEWS
SEP 3 1934

To the Editor of The Telegraph:

I have read with much interest an editorial appearing in one of your recent issues, relative to the murder of Mary Fagan in a pencil factory in Atlanta. (Unfortunately this matter is occasionally resurrected for political purposes, an appeal to the ignorant and uniformed.) This thrust at Judge Pittman is unjust and uncalled for, being for a few votes for Gene Talmadge who is in desperate straits just now. Your editorial is a stab at the Jews of Georgia, a gesture of Hitler of Germany, a slur upon the good name of Georgia and too, between the lines you seem to favor mob violence or better know as "The Mob Law." Why did you not tell the people of Georgia that, when Jim Conley saw death creeping upon him, he was afraid to die with a lie upon his lips. He could see Leo Frank at his bed side. The hardened, damnable criminal he was, he wanted to clear his conscience as much as possible and he cried out from his death bed that Leo Frank was innocent. You saw this in the papers, why not believe his dying statement in preference to his statement on the stand at the trial of Leo Frank, when his life was at stake? You say to the people of Georgia that "when the Marietta people came to Milledgeville to get Leo Frank to lynch him." If you knew these people who lynched Leo Frank, why did you not do your duty as a citizen and make it known to the officers that justice could not have been thwarted?

The Macon Daily Telegraph is looked upon by its subscribers as a paper favoring good citizenship, advocating the enforcement of the laws laid down in the statute books for the protection of society, but today if the editorial writer knew the parties who lynched Leo Frank, as is intimated in the editorrial referred to, then the Telegraph is branded as favoring mob violence.

Why do you not tell the people through the columns of your paper that the abused pardoning power of the governor is far worse than the crimes now being committed. Tell the people of the state of the character of the crimes of those pardoned by our governor, compare them with the Rowe case, and you will find some of the blackest, blood curdling murderers of the age and they are roaming over our fair land today like the untamable leopard, ready to spring upon the innocent without a chance for their lives, just for the paltry sum of a few dollars.

Judge Pittman, a Christian gentleman, who adhered closely to the oath of office while the God of the Universe looked upon him, did his duty in the Rowe case. It may be that Hugh and Charlie turned Rowe out of the gang, they seem to have the keys.

Why did you not say in your editorial that the sheriff of Bartow county lied about the Negro. The good doctor, her life-long physician, visited her and no rape was reported. Judge Pittman would not risk his soul going down to hell stained with purjury and murder, he would not meet at his last hour of life the thought that he had not done his duty.

I cannot conceive of the idea that W. T. Anderson was responsible for the editorial referred to, it stoops too low; it is not in keeping with his high ideal of life and justice.

The people of the state will not be led astray by the writer of editorials of The Telegraph.

JIM HARALSON.

Donalsonville, Ga.

Macon, Ga., Telegraph
August 25, 1934

T26

A NEGRO PROTESTS

To the Editor of The Telegraph:

Will you kindly read and publish same.

I am a regular subscriber of The Telegraph and for a long time it has been one paper I have enjoyed reading in preference of any other paper and the majority of the colored people of Georgia have recognized you as one man in the South who was in favor of seeing an unfortunate race given justice.

Just a few months ago I heard you speak here to a colored audience. You made it plain that a good many times you had been called a Negro-lover but that wasn't true; but you were a man who wanted to see justice done to every man, regardless of color or creed.

You outlined that it cost $1.77 per day to keep a man in prison and you asked your fellow-citizens to co-operate with President Roosevelt's program and pay the Negro (NRA) wages, also that your realized that one race could not progress without the other being carried along.

Then you will pardon us for contending that you are doing the Negro in 159 counties of Georgia a great injustice, referring to your editorial of Aug. 18, when you went back to 1910 or 1911 relative to the case of Leo Frank, which you know only creates more prejudice and bias. We have enough already.

We have no feeling in this campaign one way or the other; if we did we would do as the Negro did in Texas and other states. In fact we have no desire to enter politics.

If Judge Pittman erred in his case, why not impeach him and let the unfortunate race alone.

It is immaterial to us who is Governor. We feel we will be treated the same, regardless.

We had no desire to write this, Mr. Anderson, only knowing you have been a man to assist us instead of crushing us.

Milledgeville. WILLIAM T. COLLIER.

Talladega, Ala., Home
November 1, 1934

The Birmingham Age-Herald sees in the recent Marianna, Fla., lynching an invitation for federal legislation on the subject, and while declaring that it is not yet ready to support federal intervention, admits that its opposition is shaken materially.

Kidnaping and Lynching

Post 11-14-34

In Arizona federal agents have arrested Oscar Robeson, dude rancher, and charged him with extortion in connection with the kidnaping of six-year-old June Robles a year ago.

Birmingham, Ala

In Oregon the federals are rounding up other suspects in the kidnaping case of Charles Urschel last August. Already 17 persons have been captured as part of the ring that hoped to profit from the $250,000 ransom paid for this Oklahoma millionaire's release.

Since congress passed the Lindbergh law 29 major kidnapings have occurred. Apart from the Robles case only two of these—the Hamm and Bremer cases in St. Paul—remain unsolved. The kidnaper of Mrs. Stoll, while unapprehended, is known. Kidnapers and extortionists are serving a total of 1,111 years in payment for their crimes.

Thus surely the federal government's hand reaches for those cowardly criminals.

Apparently it is powerless or unwilling to reach for the mobs that openly seize and lynch their victims before the very eyes of the law they defy. The kidnap-lynching at Marianna, Fla., is a reminder that mobs continue to carry on their brutal work unhampered. Last year they lynched 28 persons. This year so far they have lynched 17. In the past five years there have been 94 lynchings in 20 states.

In his message to congress last session President Roosevelt included lynching with crimes "that call on the strong arm of the government for their immediate suppression." Despite a favorable committee report the Costigan-Wagner anti-lynching bill was smothered in the session's closing days.

The federal government, so effective in stamping out kidnaping, should have and use similar powers to curb lynching.

White Press, Southern.

4542

Lynchings-1934

Discussion-

Toward Better Race Relations In The South

In our bursts of excitement over lynchings and other dramatic evidences of racial maladjustments in the South, we often overlook the fact that these wild occurrences are the symptoms of a malignant disease. Naturally we wonder why the constituted authorities in Florida and Alabama did not attempt to prevent the scheduled lynching near Marianna last week. But a second thought on the matter leads one to believe that it would have been an even greater cause of amazement if the authorities had taken a determined stand on the side of the law as set forth in the statute books.

Unless one is willing to go far below the surface manifestations in any study of the lynching evil, he is bound to miss the point rather sadly. In the vicinity of Marianna, a body of white men did not suddenly become maddened with a desire to deal out a fearful punishment to a brute who had proved himself an enemy to civilization. No mob from Florida would have been likely to wish to tear John Dillinger to pieces, although Dillinger more than once proved himself to be an unconscionable savage.

The cause of lynching is not merely a temporary madness riding hotly upon a desire for vengeance, a determination to take a tooth for a tooth and an eye for an eye. If that were the case, the problems of officers of the law would be relatively simple. It would only be necessary for them to bring mob leaders to their senses; to snap them back into a normal channel of thought, as one might operate upon a victim of hypnosis, or a sleep-walker.

No, the crime of lynching must be regarded as an emergence of the brutish instinct, which is always present to some extent under the veneer of civilization. Physical suffering, privation, ignorance and various kinds of degradation all tend to emphasize savage instincts at the expense of the more artificial and cultivated manners and customs. All authorities on lynching agree on the point that these crimes are more to be expected in regions of mental and physical poverty.

If we are to combat these recurrent crimes of violence, we must be prepared to go to the roots of the evil. To do that we must grapple with the tremendous problem of human degradation. We must fight against those forces in society which tend to make brutes of human beings.

There are many sections of the South which have always been more or less poverty-stricken, where the scattered inhabitants lead existences which are not conducive to the growth of humane and kindly traits. When people are on the verge of mental and physical starvation, they are not likely to rise any too far above the plane of life of the ferocious animals of the forests and the jungles. Among them there occur the most unspeakable practices of one kind and another. The outside world, learning by chance of some of these occurrences, is deeply outraged that such things are possible among human beings; but the unfortunate people of the horror-infested regions take them as a matter of course.

If the South is really in earnest with reference to its oft-repeated demands that lynchings shall be stopped, we shall have to do something to raise the level of thought and physical existence among the people who regard lynching as a rather fine way of emphasizing the virtues of the white race. After all, there are people who do hold that attitude. After a lynching has taken place, and been duly recorded in large headlines over the face of the world, a cry of fierce denunciation rising from the more civilized areas of the South, as well as from the rest of the country, cannot have much effect upon the fundamental conditions responsible for the state of mind which, having for so long contemplated unmentionable human horrors of every sort, does not consider a few mob killings sufficient to demand special notice.

Until society can find some way to make it possible for its less fortunate members to escape the misery and wretchedness which those who are strong and selfish sometimes unconsciously leave to those who are weak and helpless, we are likely to have occasional lynchings—and, what is worse, terrible human depravities will show themselves regularly in ways which are known to those who have seen the lower depths of human life. In final analysis, the problem of lynching, as an evidence of a social disease, cannot be met by the courts, by the militia, or by Congress. It will disappear only as the jungle mind which exists in some of our forgotten American areas is supplanted by something that is higher and better.

Birmingham, Ala., News
November 3, 1934

Toward Better Race Relations In The South

In our bursts of excitement over lynchings and other dramatic evidences of racial maladjustments in the South, we often overlook the fact that these wild occurrences are the symptoms of a malignant disease. Naturally we wonder why the constituted authorities in Florida and Alabama did not attempt to prevent the scheduled lynching near Marianna last week. But a second thought on the matter leads one to believe that it would have been an even greater cause of amazement if the authorities had taken a determined stand on the side of the law as set forth in the statute books.

Unless one is willing to go far below the surface manifestations in any study of the lynching evil, he is bound to miss the point rather sadly. In the vicinity of Marianna, a body of white men did not suddenly become maddened with a desire to deal out a fearful punishment to a brute who had proved himself an enemy to civilization. No mob from Florida would have been likely to wish to tear John Dillinger to pieces, although Dillinger more than once proved himself to be an unconscionable savage.

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No, the crime of lynching must be regarded as an emergence of the brutish instinct, which is always present to some extent under the veneer of civilization. Physical suffering, privation, ignorance and various kinds of degradation all tend to emphasize savage instincts at the expense of the more artificial and cultivated manners and customs. All authorities on lynching agree on the point that these crimes are more to be expected in regions of mental and physical poverty.

If we are to combat these recurrent crimes of violence, we must be prepared to go to the roots of the evil. To do that we must grapple with the tremendous problem of human degradation. We must fight against those forces in society which tend to make brutes of human beings.

There are many sections of the South which have always been more or less poverty-stricken, where the scattered inhabitants lead existences which are not conducive to the growth of humane and kindly traits. When people are on the verge of mental and physical starvation, they are not likely to rise any too far above the plane of life of the ferocious animals of the forests and the jungles. Among them there occur the most unspeakable practices of one kind and another. The outside world, learning by chance of some of these occurrences, is deeply outraged that such things are possible among human beings; but the unfortunate people of the horror-infested regions take them as a matter of course.

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Until society can find some way to make it possible for its less fortunate members to escape the misery and wretchedness which those who are strong and selfish sometimes unconsciously leave to those who are weak and helpless, we are likely to have occasional lynchings—and, what is worse, terrible human depravities will show themselves regularly in ways which are known to those who have seen the lower depths of human life. In final analysis, the problem of lynching, as an evidence of a social disease, cannot be met by the courts, by the militia, or by Congress. It will disappear only as the jungle mind which exists in some of our forgotten American areas is supplanted by something that is higher and better.

Montgomery, Ala., Advertiser
October 31, 1934

FEDERAL INVESTIGATION NOT NEEDED

"It is little wonder," thinks The Washington Post, "that from the South itself have come appeals to Federal authorities to step in and safeguard the rights of American citizens. . . ."

The Washington paper is commenting on the recent lynching in Florida. It goes on to say:

> Lynching is anarchy in that it deprives individuals of the rights guaranteed them by the government under which they live. It is a lawless manifestation against the written law of the State and the unwritten law of humanity. Under no circumstances can it be condoned. The appeal of the Association of Southern Women for the Prevention of Lynchings, which runs contrary to the dislike of the South for Federal domination, throws into sharp emphasis the indignation of Florida's decent citizens over the shocking crime.
>
> Of course, Federal authorities can not answer this appael. The alleged kidnaping in this case does not seem to come within the realm of the Federal kidnaping law as there was no demand for ransom involved although State boundaries were crossed. The duty of bringing these mob murderers to justice rests entirely upon the State.
>
> Undoubtedly Florida's tragedy will bring further demands for enactment of a Federal anti-lynching law. But such a measure is not in keeping with the political philosophy of this country. Local sentiment in the communities where lynching is recurrent would be so enraged as to make its enforcement as difficult as the enforcement of prohibition was in dominantly wet regions.
>
> The South must work out the problem in its own way and within the borders of its own States. Federal intervention, now or at any time, might set back the alleged progress made against lynching in the last fifty years.

We are glad that a metropolitan newspaper beyond the Deep South realizes that the Federal Government must refuse the plea of the organizations which ask for Federal intervention in the case.

There is a difference in crimes against society—and society itself turning criminal.

It has been shown time after time that while the Southern States do not always solve their own problems, Federal intervention never helps, but aggravates the situation.

Birmingham, Ala., Age-Herald
October 30, 1934

Well Done!

Gov. Miller, fully aware of the implications of the handing over of the Negro Neal by the sheriff of Escambia County to the Florida mob which ultimately staged one of the most shocking lynchings on record, has called on the judge and solicitor of that circuit to investigate the circumstances of the affair at Brewton and, if it seems proper, to call a Grand Jury into action. Whether or not anything comes out of the inquiry which the governor has ordered, he is nevertheless to be complimented on having seen his duty in the premises and on trying to live up to it.

By what legal process the sheriff of Escambia County came to have custody of the wretch he so willingly gave up has not been made clear. It may very well have come about in some irregular fashion. Here was a Negro whom a mob was pursuing and whom Florida authorities were afraid to keep in the jail in which he would be normally incarcerated. So he is taken across the line and placed in the custody of the Alabama sheriff at Brewton, who may have accepted the obligation as a matter of grace and not of strict accountability.

But that fact, if it be a fact, would not, by every test of moral responsibility, clear him of criticism. It is to be hoped that his conduct will be so ventilated that other officials similarly placed will be governed accordingly. Somehow we must establish the proposition that officers of the law are expected to act courageously and effectively, where lynchers are concerned.

ROCKY MOUNT, N. C.
TELEGRAM

OCT 29 1934

Lynching In Florida

If one lynching can be more revolting, more barbarous than another, then of course the treatment accorded a Negro suspected of a criminal attack and the murder of a young woman approximates the zenith in this nature of crimes. Supposing that the Negro in question was guilty both of the attack and the murder, the crime was not one whit more brutal than that committed by the mob which took him from a jail and approved by thousands of morbidly curious who gathered in an isolated Florida community to witness his being killed.

Moreover, it is reasonable to say that no

members of the mob will be apprehended and brought into court to answer for their flagrant disregard for the processes they, as citizens, are duty bound to uphold. We have no brief for the Negro killer, although by all standards he must be looked upon as an innocent man until he is proved guilty. The fact that the victim of the mob is alleged to have confessed his crime does not imply that his admissions were true or that they were not wrung from him.

For murderers, who spill blood wantonly, we have no patience. And whether the murder is committed upon a helpless person at a hog pen or upon another helpless person by citizens who are supposed to be defenders of the flag and the Bible and who doubtless are loudest in their protestations of undying allegiance, the difference in the quality of the two is not a hair's breadth. Murder in all its phases is a relic of the age of barbarism, and indication that this country must, as yet, make considerable progress before it can have obtained freedom from the lusts of darker ages.

It is not unusual, in this setting, that ignorant Negroes commit unspeakable crimes. They can claim, to say the least, an example of brutal practices. The gathering of hundreds of people, including women and children, who willing and eagerly prepare to witness the killing of a Negro who is helpless, who is pronounced guilty without the privilege of defending himself furnishes the example for further crimes.

. . . .

One murder does not serve to justify another.

FORT WORTH, TEX.
MORNING STAR TELEGRAM

OCT 30 1934

Another ~~Lynching~~.

FLORIDA, this time, has placed another blot on the lynching record that has consistently been lowered during the present decade. A negro was charged with assault and murder of a white woman. The mob substituted brutality for stern law enforcement. The dignity of penalty was lost. All the spectacle accomplished was to show the rest of us that a group can out-brutalize a black brute.

The fallacy of such activities lies in the loss of healthy example by contrast. Anger and frenzy never has been able to impress potential criminals as has cold, implacable, dignified administration of justice There never has been an instance—at any rate not since the days of Reconstruction—that penalty swift and unrelenting has not followed the crime of the black against the white women in the South. The black race is much more fearful of the workings of that stark fate they know as the Law. Excitement, fear-frenzy and the drama of the event all have less effect on the victim than has the implacability of a court which coldly and with relentless deliberation takes his life as a forfeit for the crime.

Lynchings are not truly the "taking of the law into their own hands" in such instances. It is a streak of the same innate blood lust which keeps "kill" the familiar word it is. Crossed with a racial animosity that lives and thrives from a prejudice that has been sadly warped and twisted by persons alien to the traditions of the South, the justice alleged to be involved is driven out by the urges of a "Roman holiday."

Lynchings - 1934
Discussions.

White Press, Southern.

4543

ALLAHASSEE, FLA.
DEMOCRAT

NOV 26 [illegible]

Wrong Perspective On Lynch Law Opposition

Although we have always opposed lynch law, we are tired of the misdirected appeals to sympathy for guilty victims which are particularly numerous if the lynching takes place in the south and if the victim is a negro.

We oppose lynching because we wish to protect and uphold our laws, not guilty victims, and because the practice has a debasing effect upon those who participate. There is a better way to obtain justice.

Many overlook entirely the only reasonable grounds for opposition to lynch law. Sympathy for the victim is misplaced, if he is guilty. The punishment is justified whether legal or extra-legal.

When two white murderers were lynched in California, protests were comparatively few, and many governors, ministers and others announced their approval. The organizations which have shouted protests against the Marianna lynching were, for the most part, silent then.

There is no logic in an attempt to draw a distinction between the lynching of white persons and black or between a lynching in the south and elsewhere.

Lynching, even though the guilt of the accused is beyond doubt, is wrong everywhere and regardless of the color of the victim, not because the punishment is unjustified, but because it tends to tear down laws the people have made for their own protection and which should be regarded with veneration and respect.

Those who protest only when the victim is black and is lynched in the south and who base their protests upon a desire to protect a guilty person, entitled to no sympathy, are defeating their own ends.

We are for law enforcement because we hold our basic laws in high regard but we have no respect and no sympathy for any individual who forfeits his rights and his life.

And if we never hear again a protest from any organization based upon nothing more than sectional antagonism or maudlin sympathy for guilty brutes it will be too soon.

Winston Salem, N. C.
SENTINEL

DEC 2 1934

Stricter Lynching Law Is Requested

Raleigh, Dec. 1 (UP).—Calling for a stricter law, the North Carolina Commission on Inter-racial Co-operation closed its conference here tonight.

Dr. E. McNeil Po teat, of Raleigh, and Dean M. T. Van Eck, of Duke University, and Dr. Howard E. Jennings, of Duke, comprising the committee, were authorized by the conference to develop a stricter measure to replace the present statute on lynching.

Bishop Paul C. Kern, of Greensboro, addressed the conference on the development of racial goodwill.

EL PASO TEX
HERALD

DEC 1 1934

Gangs and Mobs

WITH legitimate pride Atty. Gen. Cummings points to his department's record for catching and punishing kidnapers. His new division of investigation in one year has wiped out some of the nation's most ruthless gangs, cleaned up 27 notorious kidnap cases, obtained 3531 criminal convictions.

He will ask congress for 200 additional D. I. operatives to supplement his relatively small force. And he should have them.

While the Federal Government is meeting the challenge of criminal gangs, it is silent on an equal menace to law, the lynch mob.

A report has just been sent to Washington authorities on the lynching of Claude Neal, a Florida Negro, in October. This report, made by a white investigator, tells how an armed Florida mob invaded the neighboring state, took Neal from an Alabama jail and brought him back to Marianna, Fla. There, in the presence of thousands, he was subjected to almost unbelievable tortures and mutilations before death claimed him. This ghastly crime was the 17th lynching this year, the 94th in five years.

What does the Government propose to do about such mobs? .

On Dec. 10 Atty. Gen. Cummings is calling a National Conference on Crime. He has been asked whether he will put before this conference the lynching problem, whether he will ask support for the Costigan-Wagner Federal anti-lynching bill. He has not replied.

Columbia, S. C. Record
December 4, 1934

TOWARD THE INEVITABLE.

Every lynching, as The Record has pointed out time after time, is an argument for the enactment of a federal anti-lynching law.

The lynching of Claude Neal, a Florida negro, was a better argument even than the average, for it involved what the supreme court might term interstate commerce. Neal, moved to a small Alabama jail where he could be more easily reached than in one of the larger Florida cities, was taken from the Alabama officers by a Florida mob and brought back to Marianna, Fla., where after such tortures and mutilation as would shame the savage, he was killed.

And already the lynching—the seventeeth lynching of the year—is being used as an argument for support of a federal anti-lynching law.

"With legitimate pride," the Knoxville News-Sentinel declares for example, "Attorney General Cummings points to his department's record for catching and punishing kidnapers. His new division of investigation in one year has wiped out some of the nation's most ruthless gangs, cleaned up 27 notorious kidnap cases, obtained 3,531 criminal convictions . . .

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"On Dec. 10 Attorney General Cummings is calling a national conference on crime. He has been asked whether he will put before this conference the lynching problem, whether he will ask support for the Costigan-Wagner federal anti-lynching bill. He has not replied."

Nor is The News-Sentinel alone among Southern newspapers in advocating federal intervention to punish lynchers and to discourage lynching. There is for example the Atlanta Constitution in Georgia which found the thirteenth or fourteenth lynching of the year enough to persuade it that it was time for the South to turn over the job of enforcing its laws to Washington.

And unless the states themselves take action to uphold their own laws, unless they discourage lynching by apprehending and punishing lynchers there is no doubting the fact that eventually the federal anti-lynching law will be passed. The only convincing argument against it is the demonstration that it isn't needed because the states are doing what a federal law might not itself be able to accomplish, gangsters being one thing and getting enough evidence to convict the members of a lynching mob being another.

Birmingham, Ala., Age-Herald
December 6, 1934

Warning

"It is about time the federal government acted in the Marianna, Fla., lynching. For once, in the lynching of Claude Neal, the Fourteenth Amendment ought to be used for its intended purpose instead of for the protection of corporate privilege. Certainly in this well-planned and publicized lynching—a lynching that might easily have been prevented by Florida authorities—a man was deprived of his life 'without due process of law' and denied 'equal protection of the laws.' There are grounds aplenty under the Fourteenth Amendment and under the federal anti-kidnaping law for federal action."

Thus *The New York Post* opens its comment on the report given out by the N. A. A. C. P. on the origin and procedure of the Marianna affair. And the demand for enforcement of existing law is significant because its sequel is bound to be a demand for specific legislation directed at lynching. In other words, the movement to obtain the passage of the Wagner-Costigan bill to make lynching a federal offense has now been given an immense impetus. It is hard to imagine a set of circumstances more definitely calculated to arouse the country and to force congressional action than this Marianna atrocity.

The worst of it, from the standpoint of Alabamians, is that their state is involved. If the authorities at Brewton had faced up to their responsibility, that Florida mob might have gone away empty-handed. And the failure of the Escambia County Grand Jury to take satisfactory action in the premises simply heightens the bad effect already made. One almost wishes that Gov. Miller, after ordering the investigation, might have seen fit to express his opinion of the outcome. That, at any rate, would have served to put in the record an official condemnation of the incompetence which handed over Claude Neal to a crowd of outsiders avowedly intent upon lynching him.

What Southerners ought to realize is that the continuance of lynching makes federal legislation quite inevitable. If there is any validity in the contention that states can deal with mob violence, it is best attested to, not by claims, but by events. In view of the Marianna horror, it is perhaps too late to prevent the enactment of some such law as Senators Wagner and Costigan intend to introduce again. But there is surely no hope of preventing it, if sheriffs fail to do their duty boldly and if governors, like the Florida executive decline utterly to rise to the height of their clear obligation.

GREENSBORO, N. C.
NEWS

DEC 9 1934

A Step Forward.

The instinctive Southern reaction to a lynching — at least to a lynching in some other community — has reached the point of "viewing with alarm". This same civilising tendency makes us "point with pride" to any sincere and earnest efforts made toward greater understanding of the inter-racial problems.

For that reason the Charlotte Young Women's Christian association's movement to create more sympathetic race relations is one upon which we should like to bestow approval.

Under the leadership of the inter-racial committee, the Y. W. C. A. will Monday afternoon inaugurate a year's program of addresses and open forum discussion by leaders in various fields of Negro activity. The first speaker is to be Dr. N. C. Newbold, director of the division of Negro education in the North Carolina department of education, who will explain to the public some of the efforts now being made in this state.

Other addresses in various fields will be made during the year — as the committee's contribution toward better inter-racial relations. These meetings are to be open to the public — and the public will undoubtedly have its eyes opened about the Negro race if it attends the meetings in numbers.

COLUMBIA, S. C.
RECORD

DEC 4 1934

TOWARD THE INEVITABLE.

Every lynching, as The Record has pointed out time after time, is an argument for the enactment of a federal anti-lynching law.

The lynching of Claude Neal, a Florida negro, was a better argument even than the average, for it involved what the supreme court might term interstate commerce. Neal, moved to a small Alabama jail where he could be more easily reached than in one of the larger Florida cities, was taken from the Alabama officers by a Florida mob and brought back to Marianna, Fla., where after such tortures and mutilation as would shame the savage, he was killed.

And already the lynching—the seventeeth lynching of the year—is being used as an argument for support of a federal anti-lynching law.

"With legitimate pride," the Knoxville News-Sentinel declares for example, "Attorney General Cummings points to his department's record for catching and punishing kidnapers. His new division of investigation in one year has wiped out some of the nation's most ruthless gangs, cleaned up 27 notorious kidnap cases, obtained 3,531 criminal convictions . . .

"While the federal government is meeting the challenge of criminal gangs, it is silent on an equal menace to law, the lynch mob.

"On Dec. 10 Attorney General Cummings is calling a national conference on crime. He has been asked whether he will put before this conference the lynching problem, whether he will ask support for the Costigan-Wagner federal anti-lynching bill. He has not replied."

Nor is The News-Sentinel alone among Southern newspapers in advocating federal intervention to punish lynchers and to discourage lynching. There is for example the Atlanta Constitution in Georgia which found the thirteenth or fourteenth lynching of the year enough to persuade it that it was time for the South to turn over the job of enforcing its laws to Washington.

And unless the states themselves take action to uphold their own laws, unless they discourage lynching by apprehending and punishing lynchers there is no doubting the fact that eventually the federal anti-lynching law will be passed. The only convincing argument against it is the demonstration that it isn't needed because the states are doing what a federal law might not itself be able to accomplish, gangsters being one thing and getting enough evidence to convict the members of a lynching mob being another.

LAW AND LYNCHING

Commercial Appeal [illegible] 34

To The Commercial Appeal:

I want to thank you and congratulate you on the very splendid editorial in today's Commercial Appeal, "Law and Lynching." In the vernacular of the street, "them's my sentiments." Let's have some more.

Sincerely, ELLA HACKETT.

Little Rock, Ark.

LAW AND LYNCHING

Commercial Appeal [illegible] 34

To The Commercial Appeal:

I have been expecting to see you for the past several days, but failing to do so, I take this occasion to express by letter my feeling of satisfaction upon reading your recent editorial on the subject of lynchings. It is seldom an editor has the courage to state the facts squarely and to draw the proper deductions therefrom. The attitude of northern editors is largely, if not entirely, the result of sectional prejudice; because if they lived in the south they would quite likely feel just exactly as we do; and I think it is unwise for southern editors to permit them to continue expressing their prejudiced views without a challenge. Your editorial expressed the true situation so clearly that I hope it will be widely copied. Sincerely,

W. R. HERSTEIN.

Memphis, Tenn.

LYNCHING AND LAW

Commercial Appeal 12-26-34 Memphis Tenn

To The Commercial Appeal:

I have just had the pleasure of reading your timely article on "Lynching and Law," and must say that I agree with you fully; and would add that, instead of the governor of this state sending his troops out to murder its citizens, he should send a "firing squad" to catch and kill the criminal. There are entirely too many heinous crimes and too much expense incurred by the so-called administrators of law. When such a criminal confesses the crime he should be put in front of a firing squad, and the command to fire should be instantly obeyed. Almost every day I read in your paper crimes perpetrated by holdups of our citizens, and other more heinous crimes. You are right, the only way to stop this crime is by preventing such occurrences; and that most successfully done by the prescription I have given above. Let's all get busy and stop lynching by stopping the criminal. The action of the soldiers at Shelbyville was nothing short of cold-blooded murder, for which the governor is responsible, and they should be dealt with accordingly.

If a lion should break loose and mutilate some poor, innocent citizen, upon the same basis I presume that if the guard should be called out, upon the same hypothesis, they would protect the lion and kill the people.

J. D. KENNEDY.

Memphis.

Guntersville, Ala., Advertiser
December 26, 1934

WHY A FLORIDA LYNCHING?

Of course that lynching in Mariana was a disgraceful affair, threw contempt on our legally constituted authorities, and all sort of thing, but why blame it all on Florida. Let Alabama take and bear her part of the shame. It was an Alabama jail from which the negro was taken and an Alabama jailer who submitted to the demands of the mob that took him. This seems to be of record, and it is more than probable that some of the mob were Alabamians. Sheriffs that do not take care of their prisoners may come forward with all the alibis they please, but people are generally pretty well convinced as to how those things happen. Call it a Florida lynching, if you like, but Alabama's skirts are not clear. Like the spider in the old fable, "she cried of such murders, how guiltless am I, and ran to regale on a new taken fly." We are not expecting anything to be done about this lynching, in which two Southern states are joined. It is not at all likely that any of the lynchers will be brought to justice. Legal punishment for lynching is a thing not to be expected, but beside the moral influences, our laws can be strengthened somewhat so as to prevent them. One remedy is to get at the unfaithful and cowardly officials who have not the courage to try to care for their charges.—Demopolis Times.

Lynchings—1934
Discussion.

White Press, Southern

4544

Auburn, Ala
Plainsman
Oct 31 1934

FACTS AND FALLACIES

By Flit

EDITOR'S NOTE: The opinions expressed in his column are not necessarily the editorial opinions of this paper. It is a column of personal comment, and is not to be read as an expression of our editorial policy.

* * * *

THE MARIANNA lynching is shrieked out in blackened headlines. It should be. In fact, the entire courthouse square of Marianna should be draped in black. That lynching which took place there was a heinous crime, excusable on no grounds, and undoubtedly a cause for mourning.

The state of Florida receives another blot. It is said that the whole citizenry of the state must be scarred as a result of actions of a relative few; a few who, it will very probably be found upon investigation, belong to the ignorant class; a few whose actions are guided by passion rather than by cool, intelligent thinking.

But, although the educated and intelligent people of Florida may not be directly connected with this crime, it is still their duty to eradicate the deeply rooted lynching idea. Of course, this change cannot be effected simply through such obvious methods as the formation of Anti-lynch and International Defense Leagues. These organizations through their interference in local cases antagonize small town authorities, doing more evil than good as was shown at Scottsboro.

Instead, the lynching problem must be approached subtly. The solution, we believe, lies in the education of the masses. Perhaps it will take a number of years to change gradually the sentiments and mores of our illiterate populace and to show them the difference between right and wrong. It will cost large sums to establish public schools and to hire able teachers who will go to the backwoods and break down the "cakes of custom" of our poorer classes. But of necessity it must be done. The Marianna lynching is just one example of the need. It is up to our intelligent Southerners to start the war on illiteracy here at once.

* * * *

Before anything else is said, I must get this little poem off my mind. I came across it the other day while glancing through a city newspaper, so it isn't mine. Here it is:

A Sensible Girl

Not for me are silken panties,
Teddies, step-ins, gauzy scanties.
Give me a union suit,
Long and warm—and red to boot,
When the wind blows wild and free,
Sub-debs may have their lingerie.
I'll go wrapped in underwear,
Till the forecast's "warm and fair."

Hot dog! Just the same though, I prefer the kind with gauzy scanties.

* * * *

In looking around town for something to write about, I often ask fellows I happen to meet as to what would be a good thing to discuss in this column. In nine cases out of ten my inquiry is met with a blank stare. So very little seems to happen these days in Auburn that one soon reaches his wit's end trying to think up a good story. Why doesn't somebody create some kind of a scandal, anything in which I could poke around and unearth a few dazzling facts?

One person questioned suggested that I might wage a little campaign against the numerous gambling devices in town. At first I thought this a brilliant idea, but upon further cogitation I decided otherwise. It is my idea that if anybody is fool enough to throw away "pa paa's" nickels in a "game of skill", let him keep on being fooled. I have no objections; and anyway, why deprive the owner of said machines of his profit? I wouldn't mind owning one myself.

I wonder if the nervous little lady sitting behind me Sunday during the showing of "The Barretts of Wimpole Street" thought that I or anyone else around her really objected to her expressions of loud disgust about "Papa" Barrett. No doubt she felt we would all be interested in knowing how the story should end. She thought we would. And she didn't fail to tell it all aloud. But it so happened that I much preferred to find out for myself. That was the reason I asked the little lady to be quiet. Why shouldn't I? But she didn't appreciate my sound advice at all. In fact I fully expected her to fly at my throat. Ha! Ha! Wouldn't that have been a choice bit of entertainment. Woman attacks poor college student in picture show! A fine headline. Oh well, she didn't—but she did quit her noisy prattle, and after all, that was all I wanted.

What a pity that all picture show tongue rattlers are not so easily subdued.

Dothan, Ala., Herald
November 1, 1934

LYNCHING—AN UNWRITTEN LAW.

The Washington Post, in commenting on the recent lynching in Florida, has this to say:

"Lynching is anarchy in that it deprives individuals of the rights guaranteed them by the government under which they live. It is a lawless manifestation against the written law of the State and the unwritten law of humanity. Under no circumstances can it be condoned. The appeal of the Association of Southern Women for the Prevention of Lynchings, which runs contrary to the dislike of the South for Federal domination, throws into sharp emphasis the indignation of Florida's decent citizens over the shocking crime.

"Of course, Federal authorities can not answer this appeal. The alleged kidnaping in this case does not seem to come within the realm of the Federal kidnaping law as there was no demand for ransom involved although State boundaries were crossed. The duty of bringing these mob murderers to justice rests entirely upon the state.

"Undoubtedly Florida's tragedy will bring further demands for enactment of a Federal anti-lynching law. But such a measure is not in keeping with the political philosophy of this country. Local sentiment in the communities where lynching is recurrent would be so enraged as to make its enforcement as difficult as the enforcement of prohibition was in dominantly wet regions.

"The South must work out the problem in its own way and within the borders of its own states. Federal intervention, now or at any time, might set back the alleged progress made against lynching in the last fifty years."

All of which is much more considerate and appreciative of the correct status than we would have expected in an expression from a metropolitan newspaper outside the South.

Lynching cannot be publicly condoned any more than what is known as "the unwritten law" can find place on our statute books, but so long as rapists continue to cross the racial border line it will exist until some legal procedure can be found which is more effective.

Lynching as a crime is more horrible perhaps than any other in the category outside the one—and only one—which it is intended to punish. But so long as the laws and court procedure allows the greater crime to go unpunished as is being done in the Scottsboro case, there can be but little hopes of prevention of the lesser retaliatory measure.

Investigations are all right, necessary and expected, but public sentiment is not sufficiently strong to give them the support and co-operation they must need have to be effective.

One community never touched by such an outrage may criticize another for such an unlawful condemnitory act, but let the cause be perpetrated in their own community, and the rich, red-blooded, Anglo-Saxon fire flares beyond control and a similar tragedy is left in its wake.

Such crimes demand punishment and until the courts find a way to deal it out summarily, lynching will be the result. Federal intervention would not help. In fact, the South has never forgotten the situation with which it had to cope just after the War Between the States, which gave rise to the KKK.

Auburn, Ala
Plainsman
Oct 31, 1934

Florida Lynching

The lynching down in Greenwood, Fla., last Friday night has certain characteristics which distinguish it from the conventional lynching.

The Florida lynching was different. It was worse.

It was a particularly leisurely affair. It was the boldest lynching to occur in this section in years. The ring-leaders went about their business in an open and defiant manner.

It was done in exceptional brutality in which the howling mob drags a half dead negro through the streets, strings him up, cuts him down, burns the body, takes souvenirs and goes home.

Most Alabamians are inclined to take the whole affair lightly and dismiss it from their minds with a shrug of the shoulders. It was no trivial affair. Reflect on the facts. Word that a first class lynching was imminent got around. A huge mob gathered for the fun but the ring-leaders announced that the spectacle would not take place before such a large crowd. The crowd dispersed, but many lingered for the entertainment. Then several of the lynchers took the negro to the woods and had themselves a private lynching.

Outside of the actual lynching the part that strikes us as being so hideous was the manner in which the whole affair was staged. No part of the plans was kept quiet. Everything was open. There weren't enough courageous people who knew of the affair to openly object. Also, if and when an investigation of the lynching takes place there probably won't be a person courageous enough to stand up and expose members of the lynching party. Until the people of Florida and other states make up their minds to do their part in stamping out lynchings little toward the abolition of this crime will be accomplished

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VENGEANCE AND THE LAW

Advertiser

The hundreds of civilized white men who poured across the Alabama line from Florida and seized a young Negro rapist from a passive Sheriff at Brewton in preparation for a gala lynching festival were motivated by the Greatest Excuse a mob of Southern white men can have for murder.

The Negro, Claude Neal, had outraged a young white woman, left her miserably violated, then as an afterthought returned to the scene and clubbed the helpless victim to death.

Those of us who sit coolly at a distance and judge with restrained passion, before condemning the brutal pageant of vengeance, staged in a manner shockingly suggestive of unholy circuses by pagan peoples, must consider the crime of the mob's victim. 10-28-34

His was a fiendish crime. It set blood a-boiling in the veins of a peaceful Anglo-Saxon folk, not unlike the people found in any agrarian community in this country.

Montgomery, Ala.

It is a sad commentary that any people in this country, in the same circumstances, in the same environment, would feel called upon to take the law into their own hands and execute, indeed, slaughter, a fiend guilty of the crime of which the mob's victim was certainly guilty.

The Negro was murdered in Florida by Floridians.

But Alabama shares in the responsibility. The prisoner had been brought to an Alabama jail for safe-keeping. And an Alabama sheriff stood by "helplessly and powerlessly" while a group of determined men with the usual large following of merely curious, took Claude Neal from the Brewton jail.

It seems reasonable to assume that if a mob of strangers could kidnap the man, the officers of the law at Brewton certainly would not risk harming local citizens and voters if they should attempt to remove a prisoner from jail for lynching purposes.

The few persons who plotted and staged the lynching were not ignorant of the ancient theory that a "good show will show the rest of 'em what they can't get away with," an argument first on the lips of those who attempt to justify mob law.

That "invitations" were sent abroad to all "white folks who care to attend" and that elaborate preparations were made for a gaudy presentation of the mutilated corpse in the courthouse square of Marianna, assures readers in all parts of the world that the lynching festival was held in a fitting manner, high moral tone, and all.

The world's estimate of Florida statesmen will rise higher, too, as it reads that a Florida legislator entertained his enthusiastic constituents with a humorous speech on the eve of the murder.

But what are we to do?

There will be investigations, of course. There may be even a few arrests. But if indictments are returned—which seems improbable—there will not be any convictions. Even so a community—a race can not be indicted.

The men and women who joined the gleeful throngs to "see a nigger hang" were not a pagan people. They were Floridians, and doubtless some of them were Alabamians. However, they are not different from the rest of us.

That is what makes it painful.

Alabamians, or Georgians, or Mississippians—YES—and New Yorkers and Bostonians, in the same environment, the same circumstances—might have been guilty of taking part in it, or of condoning the Roman festival.

It may be said to the credit of our neighbors across the line—and remember they are not unlike those of us who merely happen to live across the line from the scene of the crime—that they were more sensitive to brutality than they believed they were.

Hundreds eager to see the awful sight were sickened by it. Hundreds who joined the cry for the man's life perhaps this morning—as they go to the town churches and the country meeting houses to take communion—will decide that perhaps a better way might have been found to wreak vengeance.

Vengeance should have no part in executing justice. But it has because men still are vengeful.

The people of Marianna wronged themselves. But also they are guilty of reflecting upon the human race.

The tragedy lies not in the killing of one Negro who certainly deserved death, but in the actions of the people.

THE REAL HORRIBLE EXAMPLE

Advertiser 10-29-34 Montgomery Ala.

Tuskegee's Dr. Moton, who succeeded Booker T. Washington, says of lynchings: "The worse and more abhorrent lynchings are, the better the results. They shock everybody, white and black."

Certainly, hundreds of persons who viewed the corpse of the Negro swinging from a tree in the Marianna courthouse yard were so reviled at the sight that they never will take part in a lynching.

The Horrible Example should have more effect on potential white lynchers than on potential black criminals.

End Criminal Attacks To Halt Lynchings

Post

Editor, The Post:

I enjoy reading your paper and editorials but I can't agree with you in all of them, especially on what you say of mobs and lynching.

I would like to ask you to place yourself in the same position of the father and mother of these young daughters who have been caught on the road to stores, and from school, or carrying water through a field to parents, by some gorilla and assaulted and murdered.

You should know any father would sacrifice his all for his child's protection and would gladly give his life to save her. You undoubtedly must be an old bachelor, raised an orphan, and never wanted to marry.

Of all the editorials I have read, I have never yet read one criticizing the criminal that assaulted and killed some one's daughter or wife.

You seem to think the governor should pass a lynching law.

As dumb as I am, I can give you a remedy to stop lynching and you won't have to pass any laws in congress. My remedy is just stop these assaults and lynching will automatically stop—and until that is stopped no law will prevent lynching. You advocate letting the law take its course. If I were to express myself, I would say, "Well, that is a joke."

We are and have spent several thousand dollars feeding and trying some for the assault charge for three years or better, and the taxpayers are the goat. The law is still taking its course. The lawyers are at logger head, it seems, buying witnesses or anything to gain a point.

I refer you, if you will permit, to a case up at Decatur, Ala. The law took its course. The death penalty was the verdict. What was the result?

J. P. WILLIAMS,
Wylam, Ala.

WANTS FEDERAL LYNCH LAW

Telegraph 11-30-34 Macon, Ga.

To the Editor of The Telegraph:

For some weeks I have been postponing the message of congratulations and profound appreciation for your courageous and timely words against lynching, this most savage and atrocious crime in our beloved and otherwise noble Southland.

If all who have any sense of justice and are conscious of social responsibility were as bravely vocal as your paper, I believe public sentiment would speedily become crystallized and aggressive against this hideous blot on our Southern citizenship I am hoping a Federal Anti-Lynching law will be enacted by next Congress. States refuse to accept responsibility and they prove incompetent!

MRS. W. J. NEEL.

Oxford, N. C. Ledger
December 25, 1934

The frustration of a mob in Shelbyville, Tenn., which sought to take from the jail a negro arrested and held on charges of attacking a white woman, and the subsequent burning of the court house and the destruction of other public and personal property, is a sorry spectale which the whole country should regard with utter disgust. The sheriff, who succeeded in spiriting the negro off and saving his life from the unruly, drunken mobsters, is to be commended as a brave, God-fearing officer who did not shirk duty. Those responsible for the burning of the court house, at a loss of approximately $150,000, have succeeding in harming none other than the tax payers who will be called upon to restore the building. As shameful as is the crime with which the prisoner stands charged, every man, regardless of color, is entitled to a fair and impartial trial. Little known good has come from the actions of a wild, excited, mad mob.

Lynchings-1934
Discussions

White Press, Southern.

4545

Chattanooga Tenn News
October 30, 1934

Murder as Predicted

HUNDREDS of persons arrived in Greenwood, Fla. last Friday night. They had been invited to attend a lynching. "All white persons cordially invited" said the mob which seized a Negro.

These guests didn't know exactly how the murder would be done—whether there would be a burning at the stake or a hanging. Possibly most of them hoped for the burning, it being a more spectacular and a more savage method. At any rate, it was an unusual experience to be invited to a lynching. It suggests a new title for a thriller for those authors who have run out of ways to use the word "murder" in a title. Why not "murder as predicted."

The Governor of Florida notified the sheriff of the county that he would send troops if needed. But the sheriff replied that he didn't think they were needed; that the county authorities could handle the situation. After this, of course it should have been obvious to anyone that the mob's al fresco party would come off as scheduled rain or shine.

The guests assembled at the farm home of the girl whom the Negro is said to have attacked. It had been announced that the Negro would be brought there and killed. However, he was killed beforehand and then brought before the guests. As they looked on, a number of shots were fired into the victim's dead body. Knives further mutilated the corpse, and it was carried into Marianna, where it was swung from a tree in the courthouse square.

Many of the people who were guests at the party have, in the past no doubt, described to their children how Nero and fellow Romans gathered in the Coliseum to witness the barbarities. The parents and the children no doubt shuddered to think how the Romans looked on as gladiators fought to the death. A bloodthirsty lot, those ancient Romans.

There was this difference. Occasionally Nero did turn his thumbs up, indicating that killing was off the schedule for that particular afternoon. We find no evidence anywhere, that the rulers of the county in which this Florida party was given turned their thumbs to avert the lynching.

Marianna, Fla., Courier
October 26, 1934

Colored Citizens Disapprove Crime

The following is a resolution drawn up and signed by a group of leading colored citizens of Marianna in regard to the recent crime in which Miss Lola Cannidy was slain, allegedly by Claude Neal, a negro:

Marianna, Florida
Oct. 23, 1934.

WHEREAS, It has come to our attention that one of the most brutal crimes is supposed to have been committed by one of our race; and

WHEREAS, That friendly and mutual relationship that has so long existed among the white and colored citizens of our fair county has been interrupted by such a brutal act;

BE IT RESOLVED, That we, the colored citizens of Jackson county, Florida, do here and now place our stamp of disapproval on such an atrocious act, and assure the family that they have our deepest sympathy, and the law our unstinted support in bringing the guilty to speedy justice.

We do not condone crime in any form. We believe in, and teach our race, to be lawabiding citizens. We trust that the brutal act will not break that friendly and mutual relationship that exists among the white and colored of this, our good county. We have the utmost confidence in the white citizens of the county, and trust you have the same in us. We shall ever strive and teach our race never to betray that trust. We pray the guilty will be apprehended and punished, and that the innocent will be protected.

Your humble citizens,

R. W. Whitehurst.	H. H. Fagan.
E. Harley.	D. P. Preston.
M. Robinson.	M. L. Clay
W. R. Robinson	R. T. Gilmore.

Birmingham, Ala., Age-Herald
October 27, 1934

Interstate Lynching

Concerning the carrying off of the Negro taken from the jail at Brewton, many Alabamians will be disposed to shrug off the incident as a Florida affair. Yet it was nothing of the kind. If custodial responsibility was accepted by an Alabama sheriff, and if he could not contrive to protect the prisoner from the mob which had been pursuing him for a week, this is our business, and a thoroughly bad business it is.

For what is to be borne in mind is that easy transportation has eliminated state lines to the extent of making the point of custody the all-important factor. Mississippians contributed to the so-called Tuscaloosa lynchings, some investigators have concluded. In the case at hand, an Alabama sheriff was so naive and an Alabama jailor was so weak, that they permitted a vengeful band of Floridians to seize a prisoner who should have been saved from this fate at every cost.

If this is the way in which outsiders are dealt with, what is to be expected when home folks make the same demand? We have not yet managed to educate our officers to a sense of their obligation in such circumstances. Too many of them accept any pretext to rid themselves of a crucial test. The time cannot be far off when we shall have a law imposing on sheriffs and localities associated with lynchings a penalty for failing to do their full duty. That should have a deterrent effect.

Talladega, Ala., Home
October 29, 1934

LEISURELY LYNCHING.

The interstate caravan of death traveling from Brewton, Ala., to a point near Marianna, Fla., where it lynched a negro rapist-murderer was one of the most brazen examples of disrespect for law that has ever been recorded. Only the mob peformed its part well. While the horrible thing was in the making, so far as any effectual effort to stop it is concerned, the counties through which the mob passed had no officers, and the state of Florida had less than a governor. The lynching was not performed in a mad frenzy like that which frequently develops right after a horrible crime, but was a leisurely affair. In fact, the manner in which the mob took its time was only exceeded by that of Governor Sholtz.

BIRMINGHAM, ALA
AGE HERALD

OCT 27 1934

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Montgomery, Ala. Journal
October 30, 1934

Pleas for Inquiry Meet Response

In sharp contrast to the tone of out-of-state communications was the letter to Governor Miller Monday from the Mobile branch of the National Association for Advancement of Colored People "respectfully requesting" an investigation of the Claude Neal lynching and the removal of the negro from the Brewton jail.

The letter stated that the association "deplores the fact Alabama's fair name was linked with the mob murder" and "respectfully requests that you investigate, place responsibility and take such action as will uphold the honorable escutcheon of our state, if the facts warrant."

Here was the telegram of the International Labor Defense: "In the name of 200,000 members and affiliates the I. L. D. demands immediate removal from office of sheriff, jailer and every official involved in abduction of Claude Neal and prosecution for murder with application of death penalty."

Governor Miller requested Circuit Judge F. W. Hare of Monroeville and Solicitor Hugh M. Caffey of Brewton, to investigate and determine if the Alabama law had been violated and if so to place the matter before a grand jury.

Charleston, S. C., Evening Post
October 29, 1934

INTERSTATE LYNCHING

The lynching of a negro in Florida was accompanied with extreme manifestations of barbarity, illustrating the sadistic temperament of the mob and making a record of horror disheartening to a supposedly civilized people.

An unusual and perhaps a unique phase of the lynching was its interstate character. The Florida mob crossed into Alabama, where the negro was jailed, took the keys from the jailer and carried the criminal back to Florida to the scene of his frightful crime and there killed and mutilated him. It is not explained how or why the prisoner was taken to an Alabama jail, nor is there any indication that the invasion of Alabama by the Florida mob will be protested by the Alabama authorities.' Presumably the negro was taken to Alabama for safety, but it would have been more dignified on the part of Florida and probably more effective if he had been jailed in the State in which the crime was committed and protected from violence by the strong arm of Florida. It could hardly have been expected that Alabama would give as much concern to the security of the prisoner as the State which had jurisdiction over the crime and was responsible for the administration of justice upon it.

The interstate feature of the lynching may be a factor of some importance in the attempt which is being made to enact an anti-lynching law by Congress, giving the federal government jurisdiction n certain circumstances, a measure which has been steadfastly opposed by Southern representatives as encroaching on the prerogatives of the States and as opening the door to serious complications. The persistent advocates of this measure will doubtless endeavor to make some sort of capital of this circumstance.

LITTLE ROCK, ARK.
GAZETTE

OCT 30 1934

STATES AND THE NATION AND LYNCHING.

The horrible lynching in Florida brought President Roosevelt and Attorney General Cummings telegraphed demands for federal action. Not all of them were from the North. In Nashville, Tenn., more than 20 church and civic leaders joined in such a message. And a telegram to the president from the Atlantic Commission on Interracial Co-operation said:

Florida's 40 lynchings in the last 12 years without a single conviction indicate that there is no hope of action from the authorities of the state.

A record like that can not go on forever without bringing federal action, not only in Florida but wherever lynchings occur.

The states should, for the wholesome vindication of their own sovereignty, prove their capacity to enforce law and order within their borders. This country is too big to be policed from Washington.

But we know that when the states showed that they could not or would not deal effectively with kidnaping and Dillingerism, kidnaping was made a federal crime and federal agents began a war of extermination against "public enemies."

The Gazette is not advocating revival of federal anti-lynching bills that were properly defeated in Congress. But we should all of us be warned that if the states can not or will not deal with lynching the federal government will be driven to take whatever steps are necessary.

Anti-Lynch Group Asks U. S. Inquiry

Advertiser

Mrs. J. H. McCoy, of Montevallo, chairman of the Alabama Council of the Association of Southern Women for the Prevention of Lynching, yesterday turned over to the press, copy of a letter to Gov. Miller to which was attached the text of a telegram from the organization to the Attorney General of the United States requesting that his department investigate the recent lynching near Greenwood, Fla., of Claude Neal, negro, after he had been taken from the county jail at Brewton, by a Florida mob. The letter requested the Governor's cooperation.

The telegram to the Attorney General, signed by Mrs. McCoy as chairman of the organization, said: "Victim of lynching in Florida kidnaped in Alabama. Federal Government through the Department of Justice can investigate situation under Federal kidnaping law. Southern women committed against lynching for any crime requests your Department's assistance by bringing its power to bear on this case." 10-31-34

In the note accompanying copy of the message, Mrs. McCoy stated: "The Association of Southern Women for the Prevention of Lynching has sent the enclosed message to the Attorney General of the United States. We ask your cooperation and support in this case."

Montgomery Ala

Gov. Miller, who said last night he had not received the communication, declined to make any comment concerning it before it reaches him Monday, the day after the lynching, however, he called on the Judge and Solicitor of the judicial circuit in which Escambia County is located, to make a thorough investigation to determine whether the law was violated by the Sheriff at Brewton, any of his deputies, or by any other person—and if there has been any such violation, that the grand jury be called upon to make formal inquiry and act in the matter

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Another Mob Murder

Post

No stronger editorial might be written against mob murder than the story itself of a lynching ~~last night~~ near Marianna, Fla.

10-27-34

In taking their victim from the Brewton, Ala., jail where he had been placed by Florida officers for safe-keeping, the mob declared its intention to deliver him to the father of the girl who had been attacked and murdered so that he might have personal vengeance. But plans were changed and the crowd which had assembled for a Roman holiday at the girl's home was disappointed. The negro's captors did not delay that long.

Birmingham Ala

While the larger mob waited the negro's delivery he was hurried to his ~~death~~ deep in the swamps. His mutilated body, seared with hot irons and pierced by scores of bullets, was found dangling from the limb of a tree in Marianna this morning. Whether by chance or design as a mockery of the lawful processes of an orderly society, the tree selected for the gruesome exhibition stands on the lawn of the Marianna courthouse.

It is not possible to convict a mob of a thousand men for murder but until mob leaders are hunted down and made to pay the penalty for their crime all the safeguards which an enlightened civilization provides for the protection of the individual will avail nothing. The next time the hue and cry is raised it may be closer home

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LYNCHING AND STRIKE RIOTS

Telegraph 11-1-34 Macon Ga

To the Editor of The Telegraph:

Your editorial this morning indicates a fear that we may have a federal anti-lynching statute. That's one "big bad wolf" you need never be afraid of. The most astute Philadelphia lawyer, or even the smartest member of the brain trust, can hardly draw a statute to prohibit a mob from killing a Negro that won't at the same time prevent a mob at Herrin, Illinois, for instance, or at Paterson, N. J., from killing a strike breaker, or merely one who wants to work to make a living for himself and family despite the dictatorial orders of the labor unions to the contrary. Since our government, national, not state, has been turned over, lock, stock and barrel, to the labor unions, we may hardly expect a federal legislation that will prevent mob violence without which, it is believed the labor unions cannot continue their control of the industry of the nation. When we return to law and order, and persons and property are protected from the assaults and sabotage of mobs, maybe then we can get up a little scare about federal anti-lynching laws.

Albany, Ga. R. L. PONDER.

Oklahoma City, Okla.
OKLAHOMAN

OCT 31 1934

Mobs in Action

OVER at Akins the mob ate peanuts, upset gravestones, trampled over sunken graves, and conducted a funeral on circus principles. Down in West Florida the mob called in the citizens from far and near and furnished entertainment by murdering a Negro prisoner. Here in Oklahoma City the mob smashed light globes, filched a collection of inconsequentials from convenient counters and walked off with a variety of bedsheets from a downtown hotel. And in several rather interesting respects these mobs were exactly alike.

Had the chief promoter of the Florida murder been present at Akins Sunday afternoon, he could have led the irresponsible throngs to deeds of violence almost as dark as the murder of the southern palm groves. Had he been in Oklahoma City when a horde of thoughtless boys were proving their love for the higher culture by hooking bed sheets, he could have made that carnival of mischief far more serious than it was. For all mobs are to a greater or lesser extent marked by their propensity to follow the leader.

It is interesting to reflect and difficult to deny that the right kind of leader could have converted the Akins orgy of tombstone breaking into a religious service of unquestioned piety. The right kind of leader, striking at the right moment, could have changed the Florida mob into a law-and-order convocation. The right kind of leader did in succession break up two mobs on murder bent in Lexington when Robert E. Lee induced the violent to stay their hands and let the law take its course.

It is just as easy to lead some mobs in the right direction as it is to lead them in the wrong direction. Of course some mobs are more difficult to lead out of mischief than others and not every mob leader can turn the violent away from premeditated violence. Much depends upon how far the mob has moved into the realm of hysteria and considerably more depends upon the character of the leader.

NEW ORLEANS, LA.
TRIBUNE

OCT 31 1934

More Savagery

WE READ that the spirit that sent several hundred Florida mobsters out to hang, shoot, and mutilate a Negro for assaulting a white girl has "ebbed." The community of Marianna, when this lynching was done on schedule as a sort of theatrical event, is experiencing a "morning after." Citizens who made themselves conspicuous in staging the spectacle are not making themselves inconspicuous, or wishing that they could.

On the other hand, law-abiding Negroes make matters easier for themselves by publishing a resolution denouncing the dead man and his crime. Farther away, humane societies demand that the Federal government prosecute the leaders of the mob.

Marianna's "hangover" regrets don't involve any disposition to turn any of the lynchers over to justice. The needless and grewsome brutalities that marked the crime are more deplorable than the hanging itself. Had the crowd made a quick, quiet, and "seemly" job of its murder, Marianna might still be more proud than ashamed of the affair. As long as that is the viewpoint, neither "hangovers" nor the indignation of law-abiding citizens are very potent civilizing influences.

Lynchings- 1934
Discussions.

White Press, Southern.

4546

Macon, Ga. News
November 2, 1934

Just a Gesture

Governor Scholtz, of Florida, has ordered a grand jury investigation of the lynching last week of Claude Neal, Negro, in Jackson county, near Marianna, after leaders of the mob had issued invitations to the citizens of the community to be present at the execution.

In the meantime the sheriff of Jackson county issues a statement in which he says he believed until the very last that he would be able to handle the situation and therefore did not request the governor to call out the troops.

It ought to have been apparent to the boldest and most courageous peace officers that he could not handle a situation like that which developed when a mob of thousands, after taking the Negro from an Alabama jail, made deliberate and elaborate preparations for the murder. It should have been equally apparent to the governor of the state that it was a situation with which he could not dally.

The organization of the Southern women who have taken the initiative in demanding an investigation recall that there have been forty lynchings in Florida in the past few years with not one single person punished. The sheriff of Jackson county anticipates an alibi by claiming that, in his opinon, the lynching did not take place in Florida at all but in Alabama. All the circumstances of the case show this theory to be far fetched.

The public will await with interest, but with not much confidence, the grand jury investigation. This much is certain, however, unless some one is punished the federal government will take a hand under an anti-lynching law in the near future.

Cairo, Ga., Messenger
November 2, 1934

THAT FLORIDA LYNCHING.

A hundred or more citizens of Northwest Florida went on a lynching expedition the other night. A Negro, who had confessed to officers that he had assaulted and murdered a young white woman, was taken from the Brewton, Ala., jail, whence he had been spirited for safe-keeping, and returned to Northwest Florida, where he was killed, and his mutilated body was strung to a tree in the courtyard at Marianna, although it remained there only a short time.

The incident brought a week-end of mob hysteria to the Northwest Florida area and resulted in two units of the Florida National Guard being sent to Marianna as a precaution against further trouble, after talk was spread around that the mob might form again and lynch another Negro who had been in a fight with a white man.

The mob overpowered the officers at Brewton and apparently had its own way. Word was spread around, according to press reports, that there was to be a lynching party and all interested were invited to attend.

Reverberations of the affair were noted throughout the south and east and several newspapers followed their custom of using glaring headlines to feature the activities of the mob. The Association of Southern Women for the Prevention of Lynching and the National Association for the Advancement of the Colored promptly filed vigorous protests with various officials in referring to the incidents as a serious racial outbreak. These and other agencies appealed to Attorney-General Cummings and even to President Roosevelt for Federal intervention, but Washington quickly replied that there was no basis for Federal action.

Such occurrences are very, very regrettable. No right-thinking citizen can condone lynchings or mob violence. We do not think that the citizens of Northwest Florida are any worse, hardly, than those in other parts of the country.

The most significant feature of the whole affair to us is that the disturbance was NOT essentially or fundamentally a racial matter and it is downright disgusting to us to see these racial agencies, particularly those in the north and east, jump in every time there is a lynching and raise a great stir about the importance of preserving good feeling between the races, when it is often the case that the incidents might have been substantially the same had the principal been a white man rather than a Negro.

The press played up the activities of the mob last week-end but it had virtually nothing to say of the atrociousness of the crime that the Negro had committed. Reliable information reaching us giving the details of the crime convinces us that no crime could be more heinous nor more brutal than that which the rapist and murderer committed. Actually, the awfulness of the crime is beyond description. Should a white man have committed it, we feel sure the reaction would have been the same. And, while we do not condone lynchings, we cannot see a great deal of difference in the seriousness of the lynching and the assault and murder that caused it.

And the efforts of these racial agencies in most instances are quite ill-directed and productive of about as much harm as good.

Tallahassee, Fla. Democrat
November 1, 1934

Anti-Lynching Laws

One of the probable results of the Marianna lynching will be the stimulation of effort to put through congress a federal anti-lynching bill. Senator Wagner, who introduced such a bill last session, said yesterday that he would renew the fight, and felt confident congress would enact it into law.

This bill, known as the Costigan-Wagner bill, subjects to a fine up to $5,000 or imprisonment up to five years, or both, any state or local official who is charged with the protection of an individual and who fails to make "all diligent efforts" to protect him from injury at the hands of a mob. A similar penalty is provided for any state or local official lax in his duties of arresting, jailing or prosecuting any member of such mob. The federal court in the judicial district where mob violence occurs shall have jurisdiction to try, under the laws of the state concerned, any member of a lynching mob, but only if state officers are lax in prosecution, or jurors obtainable for a state court are opposed to punishment for the lynching.

The law also provides that any county in which a person is killed by a mob shall be fined $10,000. This fine is to be levied by the federal government, which is given the right to collect by property levy, mandamus or other appropriate measures. In case the victim is seized in one county and put to death in another, each county is liable for the fine. If the victim has dependents, the fine is to go to them.

At the last session the bill was lost in the pile of unfinished business, but a similar measure was killed in 1921 by a senate filibuster of southern senators, after the house had adopted it. The filibusters were opposed to federal intervention in what they considered a state problem.

However much we may regret an incident such as occurred in West Florida, we may have to admit the futility of such general measures by the federal government to punish local units. Many states now have anti-lynching laws, which do not prevent lynchings. Furthermore, if jurors in a state court will not convict members of a lynching mob, jurors in a federal court are likely to take the same attitude.

If lynchings are to be stopped, officers of the law must stop them. In nine cases out of ten, conscientious and courageous action can prevent the crime. Too many officers virtually hand their prisoners over to mobs, or fail in the first place to spirit them away to safe places. To enact a federal law punishing a county after the officers of that county have allowed the passions of the mobsters to rise to a murderous pitch would be to write another law on the books to be disregarded.—St. Petersburg Independent.

Jackson, Miss. Ledger
October 28, 1934

This Unspeakable Florida Case May Cost the South Too Much

Any lynching gains a state notoriety for barbarism.

The more barbarous a lynching, the more evil, the more malodorous, and the more costly is this notoriety for the state.

But when a mob from one state invades another to seize a prisoner from a jail, and then holds the prisoner captive a day while "invitations" are sent out to all the county to view and participate in a burning-at-the-stake, then that unfortunate state gains the worst notoriety of all, and is penalized by it many years.

This is the status of a Florida case. A negro, an allegedly confessed rapist, placed in an Alabama jail for safe-keeping, was seized by a Florida mob and held prisoner while a "committee" sent out the invitations and made other arrangements for the lynching.

The negro was later shot, badly mutilated with knives and other sharp instruments, and swung from a limb of a tree on the court house square at Marianna, Fla. He was taken from the jail at Brewton, Ala., adjoining state, carried to the farm of George Cannidy, whose daughter was ravished by him and from there to Marianna, Fla. This lynching under these circumstances, will no doubt furnish an incentive to those who have for years endeavored to force through congress a federal anti-lynching bill, in order to strike at the South.

Every citizen knows what a nuisance and a menace, as well as a cost, such a federal law would be to the whole South. Every such citizen knows its possibilities, the ways in which it might be used to work grievous hurt to the South and to undo all that has been done by courage and patience and blood during the past 60 years to achieve and maintain white supremacy and racial segregation while the two races live and work in harmony and increasing understanding.

This Florida case, regardless of outcome, because of the splurging publicity given it, may swing the few additional votes necessary to enact such federal legislation, penalizing a county in which a lynching occurs, taking from the county money to pay the family of the victim, regardless of his guilt; and giving the federal government jurisdiction in murder cases in which state jurisdiction has been supreme.

Attorney-General Cummings, to whom an appeal was made to use federal forces to stop this lynching—while the negro was being held captive and while the "committee" was sending out its invitations, replied, "There is no basis for Federal action."

This Florida mob may supply the basis for future federal action in ALL murders that may be suspected as lynchings.

We have courts of justice in which to try these cases, and during recent years they are becoming more prompt in cases of this kind. Once break down these courts and neither property nor life will be safe.

Crimes of this kind make the blood boil in the veins of every good citizen, but this is no reason why they should become law violators.

Savannah, Ga., News
October 30, 1934

THE FLORIDA LYNCHING

Lynching of a negro near Marianna, Fla. a few nights ago for an assault upon a white girl is being deplored by all who still believe that this is not the civilized method of dealing with criminals, although it is generally admitted that the crime for which he was lynched was of such a nature as to justify speedy punishment.

Up until a few weeks ago, Georgia had a spotless record for no-lynchings in 1934. Then came reports of a lynching for depredations committed in the naval stores industry in the vicinity of Darien, and an attempted lynching in Bryan county for assault upon a white woman. The reports, while not fully authenticated, were sufficient to cast a cloud upon Georgia's record for the year. They serve to foster the spirit of mob violence and disregard of law, a spirit which is very dangerous to encourage, since it strikes at the very foundations of civilized society and has a degrading effect upon the public mind. Slowness of the courts, is, of course, the primary factor in promoting this tendency of men to take the law into their own hands, yet it is none the less to be deplored.

Meanwhile the movement goes forward for a federal anti-lynching law. Since the state laws and state courts do not seem to be successful in stamping out lynchings, which continue not only in the South but in the North and as far westward as California, it would seem that the time has come for the federal government to deal with the situation by offering quick justice, such as that which has been provided for kidnapers and other classes of criminals.

Demopolis, Ala., Times
November 1, 1934

WHY A FLORIDA LYNCHING?

Of course that lynching in Marianna was a disgraceful affair, threw contempt on our legally constituted authorities, and all that sort of thing, but why blame it all on Florida. Let Alabama take and bear her part of the shame. It was an Alabama jail from which the negro was taken and an Alabama jailer who submitted to the demands of the mob that took him. This seems to be of record, and it is more than probable that some of the mob were Alabamians. Sheriffs that do not take care of their prisoners may come forward with all the alibis they please, but people are generally pretty well convinced as to how those things happen. Call it a Florida lynching, if you like, but Alabama's skirts are not clear. Like the spider in the old fable, "she cried of such murders, how gultless am I, and ran to regale on a new taken fly." We are not expecting anything to be done about this lynching, in which two Southern states are joined. It is not at all likely that any of the lynchers will be brought to justice. Legal punishment for lynching is a thing not to be expected, but beside the moral influences, our laws can be strengthened somewhat so as to prevent them. One remedy is to get at the unfaithful and cowardly officials who have not the courage to try to care for their charges.

Anniston, Ala. Star
November 5, 1934

enting Lynchings

o was familiar with the circumstances ing the lynching of a negro recently in na, Fla., must have reached the conclusion whole affair from beginning to end could n prevented had those in authority been alert to their duty and acted with the speed that should be shown in such cases. However, there was not the need for quick action that generally is present when a mob sets out to violence, for the lynchers were not in a hurry to complete their gruesome task. Furthermore, the mob not only took its time, but the crime was different from the general order in that it was astonishing brazeness on the part of the perpetrators.

The victim was taken from the jail at Brewton Friday morning and taken into Florida. But the actual lynching took place late Friday night and all that time full publicity was given to the actions of the mob. Therefore officials of both states have been severely condemned for not taking the necessary steps to prevent the lynching.

The sheriff and jailer at Brewton, where the negro had been sent for safe keeping, have been blamed for permitting the mob to take him. Had they taken proper precautions to safeguard their prisoner, he would not have fallen into the hands of the lynchers, it is charged. He had been placed in their care and they were informed of the fact that violence had been threatened and afterwards there was a general demand to know why they had not seen to it that he was adequately guarded.

Florida officials also have come in for their share of the blame and Governor Dave Sholtz has been criticized for not sending National Guard troops to disperse the mob and save the life of the negro. Demands have been made for an investigation and the Florida Governor, while held responsible for the crime by neglect of duty, has been asked to atone as far as possible for his previous dilatory tactics by leaving nothing undone in the effort to bring the members of the mob to justice.

All this serves to emphasize the responsibility and power of the man in the Governor's chair. If the Governor is a man of quick decision and determination such crimes often can be averted. But if he hesitates and waits for further developments or requests from county officials before taking steps to thwart the mob, he will soon find that it is too late, for there is nothing that can be done to help the victim after his life has been wiped out.

In this connection, it is interesting to note a specific instance in which timely action by the Governor of Alabama balked a mob that was threatening to take the life of an accused negro. In his column in The Birmingham Age-Herald the other day, John Temple Graves called attention to a case similar to the Brewton case in which former Governor Kilby promptly took action by removing the sheriff and appointing special attorneys to prosecute the guilty persons. And the contrast is clear between this and the attitude of Governor Sholtz—so clear that we may say that had a man of Kilby's type been in the chief executive's position in Florida the records of two states would not today be stained with this lynching.

Governor Miller now is investigating the Brewton case, but his action may be too late. He should have followed Kilby's example immediately after the prisoner was removed.

Lynchings - 1934
Discussions.

White Press, Southern.

4547

Arcadia, Fla., Arcadian
November 1, 1934

MARIANNA'S LYNCHING ORGY

The mob which conducted a lynching bee at Marianna, Jackson county, a few days ago has given Florida some undesirable publicity. The act, in which a negro charged with assault on a white girl was put to death in the most brutal manner, has been severely condemned by editorial writers in the daily papers and men in official life, and deserves it all, but unfortunately condemnation cannot undue the damage that has been done.

Presence of the mob spirit, which is found at times in all communities, is but an evidence that humanity has not advanced far beyond the days of savagery. Its major manifestation is in lynchings such as this, but it finds expression in many lesser ways.

It may or may not be an extenuating circumstance to point out that as a rule such a mob as the one at Marianna usually revolves around one or two, or perhaps at times as many as half a dozen, moving spirits. With these eliminated there would be no mob. Also that these mobs, according to stories that are told of them afterward by those who followed along out of curiosity, are composed of men who have first made themselves drunk, in order to stimulate their courage to the point of taking human life. There is some comfort in the thought that the mob which the press stories tell about is composed of about 90 or 95 per cent of the idly curious, and five to ten per cent real mobsters.

The peace officer in charge is usually the one most responsible for a lynching. Where the incipient mob spirit is met with determined resistance right at the outset the danger usually subsides. How many lynchings have been prevented by a show of official courage at the proper moment can never be known.

Of course a rigid investigation and vigorous prosecution has been ordered, but the usual thing will happen. Nothing will be done. A community which will permit a lynching bee is not liable to be interested in punishing those who promoted it.

Columbia, S. C. Record
October 30, 1934

Curiosity.

It would be interesting to know how many of those Florida gentlemen, who took the law into their own hands the other day to give the federal anti-lynching law advocates proof that lynching can be an interstate affair, have done anything and if so what to encourage law enforcement, how many of them have or later will sign clemency petitions for some convicted criminal or criminals.

ORLANDO, FLA.
SENTINEL

NOV 1 1934

LYNCHING HELD UNPREVENTABLE

Florida Mob Branded Kidnaps

TALLAHASSEE, Oct. 31— (AP) — The state cabinet was told by Lieut. Col. Percy Coombs of the Florida National Guard today, that in his opinion the militia could not have prevented the lynching of Claude Neal, negro, near Marianna last week.

Meanwhile, to Pres. Roosevelt in Washington, came a letter asserting the mob which forcibly took Neal from a Brewton, Ala., jail and brought him to Florida to kill him, had violated the federal kidnap law. The letter was signed by Walter Pickens of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People.

After listening to Coombs, Gov. Dave Sholtz awaited the personal report tomorrow of Sheriff W. F. Chambliss of Jackson county. The governor said he had received the assurance of Chambliss that county authorities could handle the situation and national guardsmen were not needed.

Coombs, who was in charge of two militia companies moved into Marianna Saturday, after Neal was lynched Friday night, when civil authorities reported they feared further mob violence.

Coombs told the cabinet he doubted if troops could have found the mob as it held the negro all day Friday awaiting nightfall, when residents of the area had been invited to "attend the party."

"Even if the mob had been located," the officer said, "it probably would have killed the negro before he could be rescued."

He reminded state officials Florida troops had no authority to go into Alabama to protect Neal in the Brewton jail. "Under the circumstances," he added, "I don't see how the national guard could have prevented the lynching."

TROOP BENEFIT CITED

Coombs said he believed the troops had prevented possible action against negroes at Marianna Saturday night. Just prior to their arrival a number of men had attempted to take Bud Gammon, accused of hitting a white man with a bottle, away from sheriff's officers.

Excitement died down as the militia entered, Coombs reported. "We made a little display o' force on the courthouse lawn and that was all that was necessary."

Machine guns were mounted and rifles displayed.

In his letter to the president Pickens declared:

"We have made laws to punish interstate kidnapers, promising death to those who harm their victims. If we fail to make good, or at least to exhaust every resurce to make good, in this wholesale violation of those laws, we ought to apologize to the relatives of the Dillingers and the Floyds, and to dismiss all pending cases against petty criminals of the kind, who now stand in jeopardy of their liberties and their lives."

Previous requests for federal action reaching Washington received the reply by Att. Gen. Cummings, that the case was not a violation of U. S. law.

Birmingham, Ala. Post
October 29, 1934

A Federal Crime

Unless the federal government acts, the Marianna lynching probably will go unpunished like virtually all other lynchings. Because of the mob's removal of the victim from one state to another, this was an interstate crime.

It is significant that those leading in the appeal for government action are Southerners.

The messages to President Roosevelt from the Commission on Interracial Co-operation and to Attorney-General Cummings from the Association of Southern Women for the Prevention of Lynching are further proof that the real spirit of the South abhors these frequent outbreaks of barbarism.

Lynchings are almost impossible without the connivance, open or tacit, of the local officers of the law with mobs. The long, sad, shameful record of racial mob savagery proves beyond argument that this terrible type of crime will never be controlled until the federal government intervenes to preserve American legal processes and to protect the lives of its citizens.

Enactment of the Costigan-Wagner anti-lynching [illegible], necessary to give the federal government power in all such cases, is one of the major charges upon the next congress. But that law cannot be passed without the active support of President Roosevelt in whose administration there have already been 45 lynchings.

Macon, Ga., Telegraph
November 1, 1934

LYNCHING AND STRIKE RIOTS

To the Editor of The Telegraph:

Your editorial this morning indicates a fear that we may have a federal anti-lynching statute. That's one "big bad wolf" you need never be afraid of. The most astute Philadelphia lawyer, or even the smartest member of the brain trust, can hardly draw a statute to prohibit a mob from killing a Negro that won't at the same time prevent a mob at Herrin, Illinois for instance, or at Paterson, N. J., from killing a strike breaker, or merely one who wants to work to make a living for himself and family despite the dictatorial orders of the labor unions to the contrary. Since our government, national, not state, has been turned over, lock, stock and barrel, to the labor unions, we may hardly expect a federal legislation that will prevent mob violence without which, it is believed the labor unions cannot continue their control of the industry of the nation. When we return to law and order, and persons and property are protected from the assaults and sabotage of mobs, maybe then we can get up a little scare about federal anti-lynching laws.

Albany, Ga.

R. L. PONDER.

MACON, GA.
NEWS

OCT 28 1934

Federal Anti-Lynch Law Ahe

The lynching of the Negro, Claude Nea North Florida on Friday night was, in ma respects, the most atrocious crime in the lor and bloody history of mob violence.

The crime for which the Negro was lynched was, of course, unspeakably horrible, but i the first place it has often been pointed ou that lynching for criminal assault made i easier to keep alive the whole spirit of mob violence and disregard of law so that men take matters into their own hands for many crimes of a minor nature. It is the brutalizing effect upon the popular mind which is deplored as much as the crime itself, and nothing more brutal could be imagined than some of the details with which this Florida lynching was accompanied. The mob first visited the jail at Brewton, Alabama, and practically without resistance took the Negro back to the scene of his crime near Marianna, Florida.

The word soon passed from mouth to mouth that the Negro was to be killed and immediately the countryside was alive with people in automobiles and every other conceivable vehicle, on their way to the scene of the execution, filled with vengeance and morbid curiosity.

The cold-blooded deliberation with which the affair was managed was one of its most reprehensible aspects. When the crowd became so great the blood-thirsty stage-managers became afraid that someone besides the intended victim might be hurt, so the announcement was made that the sanguinary performance would not go on until the mob had dwindled. Invitations were extended to a select few to be present.

In the meantime appeals were made to the governor of Florida to call out the National

Guard to protect the Negro. The sheriff of the county and other officials persisted in declaring that they were entirely able to cope with the situation. It is doubtful if this was true and it is equally doubtful whether the sheriff had the slightest desire to protect this Negro.

While those who were invited to ring-side seats were waiting for the general mob to disperse, speeches couched in a "humorous" vein were made by way of entertainment. A heartless flippancy prevailed throughout the evening.

The body of the Negro has since been found, with every evidence that he had been subjected to all kinds of torture and mutilation. Nobody doubted, from the time constituted authorities threw up their hands, that such would be the culmination.

It is no longer pretended that the lynching of Negroes is peculiar to the South. The North and Middle West have a record on this score which gives that theory the lie, but it is high time that we should see the end of this form of barbarism.

The upshot of it all is going to be that a few more crimes like this in Florida will give the stimulus necessary for putting over in Congress a federal anti-lynching law of the most drastic character. If we can not keep our own doorstep clean the Federal Government will try its hand, and will probably succeed.

BIRMINGHAM, ALA.
AGE HERALD
NOV 1 1934

Speeding The Inevitable?

If anything was calculated to revitalize the agitation for federal anti-lynching legislation, the Marianna affair fills the bill. It provides those who are demanding this form of national control with all the ammunition they could ask for. How true this is shown by the reaction of Senators Wagner and Costigan who introduced the anti-lynching measure during the last session of Congress. They have announced their intention to press for action along the same line. Pointing to the Florida atrocity, they stand on ground made doubly firm by the special circumstances of that revolting business.

Southerners who for one reason or another object to the injection of federal authority into the solution of the lynching problem would do well to observe the fresh features presented by the Marianna incident. It involved the crossing of state lines by a group of kidnapers acting for a mob which eventually killed the Negro. This point is being stressed in demands for the attention of the department of justice. But it involved something else, which has set on edge the teeth of the country, namely, the deliberate preparations for the lynching and the advance publicity making a kind of holiday of this defiance of law and human decency.

The upshot is that a paper so well-balanced and restrained as *The Springfield Republican*, remembering how "Public Enemy No. 1," was dealt with when all the protective resources of the country were welded into a mighty weapon to exterminate this menace to society, urges that the same united zeal should be utilized for the suppression of mob violence. "National disgrace No. 1 should have the same treatment by all the authorities, local, state and federal, as public enemy No. 1," it is argued. "Lynching could not long survive in the United States, to blacken American civilization, if there were the same cooperation against it among the representatives of the law, high and low, that there was against Al Capone, Dillinger, Hauptmann and 'Pretty Boy' Floyd."

The Wagner-Costigan bill did not come up for action because Southern senators were able to keep it pigeonholed. Their influence in the next Congress will be greater than ever. But their position on this particular issue will have been seriously weakened by the Florida affair. Parliamentary maneuvering is effective when public sentiment is not wrought up. It can not be relied on when those who are doing the maneuvering against a bill have to face a strong public demand for action and are at the same time deprived of the logic which they could bring to bear in a different situation. The Marianna lynching with its peculiar ferocity robs the state rights principle of its applicability.

The Age-Herald is by no means ready to support federal legislation against lynching. But we have to admit that the Marianna incident has shaken us materially. When state authorities show themselves to be so utterly incompetent as in this case, one is hard put to it to justify continued opposition to federal "interference." And unless a persuasive resolve is evinced to pursue and punish the lynchers, there will be many Southerners who will be convinced that there is no high-minded escape from support of the kind of correction Senators Wagner and Costigan have in mind.

TALLAHASSEE, FLA.
DEMOCRAT
OCT 29 1934

Lynch Law
A Vestige of Past

Lynching is an old habit, a carry over from frontier days, the inability to become adjusted to changing conditions.

Time was when lynch law was justified and necessary. In the west the offenses most often punished in this extra-legal manner were highway robbery and horse stealing. In the south, the offense usually punished by lynching has been crime against the person.

In the western states colonization and need for regulation preceded establishment of courts of justice.

In the south legal machinery was disrupted when taken from the hands of citizens and placed in charge of imported despots who had no real interest in the welfare of the communities or the commonwealth.

In both cases the choice was between lynch law and no justice.

But lynch law, thus justified and made necessary, was usually carried out in an orderly manner. It was under cover justice but orderly justice. The accused were given trial, perhaps as fair trial as they now can obtain in court houses. After determination of guilt the sentence of death or whipping was executed.

In the case at Marianna the guilt of the accused was in no doubt. A piece of his shirt, which fitted that garment found in his house was discovered at the scene of the crime. The ring from the watch found in his pocket was located there. And he confessed.

The sentence of death under our laws, was not only just but mandatory.

The method of executing that sentence alone is in doubt. If necessary, the method, up to a point, was justified. If not necessary it was not justified.

The question is: Has law enforcement broken down in Florida or in Jackson county, do juries fail to do their duty there, is it impossible to obtain justice in the normal, legal form prescribed by our people in their laws?

Believing that these questions must be answered in the negative, believing that the courts are open in Jackson county, that juries of Jackson county citizens would convict on the evidence available in this and similar cases, that sentence would be set and execution would follow, there appears no necessity for lynch law.

We, as a free people, have established our laws and our courts. We can maintain them only by respecting them.

A lynching, and more particularly a lynching with the additional features of mutilation and stringing of the body at the steps of the court of justice, tends to destroy the effectiveness of the government which the people themselves have ordained.

More than that it damages our state in the eyes of the nation.

The accused in this case, guilty without doubt, would have been just as dead, two weeks from now, had he been tried, convicted and the sentence of death executed in the regular and legal manner according to the laws of Florida and the sense of justice in Jackson county.

Palatka, Fla. News
November 2, 1934

PUNISH THAT MOB

There is not a reason in the world to assume that Governor Sholtz could have halted the Florida mob that strung up the dead body of a negro at Marianna had he been in Tallahassee at the time and had he ordered out the troops. Leaders of the lynching party were too astute to tip off their movements. They also had the advantage of being able to kill their prisoner at the first sign of resistance.

What is possible is to bring to justice some members of the mob, especially those that were well known and whose names must be household words out in West Florida.

These should be brought to trial, whether convicted by a local jury or not, for the purpose of increasing respect for the law. Apparently that is just what is going to happen, for Governor Sholtz has ordered the state's attorney for Jackson county to call a special grand jury and seek to obtain indictments.

But for the local tendency to spare those who participate in these bloody and unnecessary orgies, mobs would lack the hardihood to form. They believe that it is possible to intimidate their home authorities, if only by threats to defeat them for reelection. With the chief executive telling the sheriff and the solicitor to "go get 'em" it is not too much to expect results.

Lynchings -1934
& Discussions.

White Press, Southern.

4548

Raleigh, N. C., News & Observer
February 16, 1934

EFFECTIVE LAWS AGAINST EVIL OF LYNCHING ASKED

Interracial Commission Would Discipline Officer Who Fails to Protect Prisoner

SEEKS ALLEVIATION OF TENANT FARMERS' LOT

Acreage Reduction Expected to Add Thousands to Relief Rolls This Year; Governor Calls For Understanding Tolerance, Justice in Race Relations

Severe condemnation of mob violence and demand for stringent anti-lynch laws were contained in resolutions adopted yesterday by the fifteenth annual conference of the North Carolina Commission on Interracial Cooperation.

Enactment of a State law empowering and instructing the Governor to remove immediately from office any officers of the law who fail to protect their prisoners was strongly urged.

Also advocated was the teaching of the abhorrence of lynching in the public schools.

Governor Ehringhaus was petitioned to recommend the requested legislation at the next session of the General Assembly.

Denounce Mob Violence.

The resolutions were prepared by a committee appointed at the morning session after Dr. W. A. Stanbury of Greensboro, who presided, denounced mob violence and pointed to—without calling names—the lynching of Dock Rogers in Pender county last August as a shame and a disgrace to North Carolina.

On the committee which prepared the resolutions were Dr. W. C. Jackson, Durham, chairman; Mrs. W. T. Bost, Commissioner of Public Welfare; Mrs. Gurney Hood, Raleigh; Dr. S. G. Atkins, president of the Winston-Salem Teachers College for Negroes, and Dr. James E. Shepherd, president of the North Carolina College for Negroes at Durham.

Dr. Howard Odum of the University of North Carolina, chairman of the commission, started the program by asserting the destinies of the white and Negro races are so interwoven there naturally must exist a spirit of close cooperation if high ideals are to be achieved.

(Due to Governor Ehringhaus' appointment of 1,000 new members to the Interracial Commission, yesterday's sessions were attended by more people than any other. Held in the First Presbyterian Church, the conference was brought to a close last night after Governor Ehringhaus had discussed guiding principles for a State policy on race relations.

Birmingham, Ala., Age-Herald
February 17, 1934

Southern Foes Of Lynching

A neighbor, of Southern birth, tells me that justice for the Negro is more likely to be achieved if we Northerners let the finer people in the South deal with this matter unhampered by our suggestions. A young college trained Negro who has taught in the South agrees with her and their common position is strengthened by the recent organization of Southern women who have undertaken to stop lynching.

At the same time, there is an approach to the problem which we Northerners can and should make: that of sympathy and appreciation when Southerners do plead with their own people to refrain from mob violence when the color question is rife. We can let our Southern friends know that such gallantry on their part is recognized by us as a distinct contribution to the national welfare. I would walk many miles, even in this cold weather, to meet those Southern women who show the same courage which was manifested by the boys in gray on the battlefield. All honor to them, for they revive our faith in womanhood. If they succeed the sections will be reunited in one common America.

Nor let us forget Gov. Ritchie, who risked his popularity by demanding the arrest of the Maryland lynchers. Their savage retort to him indicates the risk he ran. When the memory of his brilliant administration of the state of Maryland is forgotten, some of us will remember how from a sick bed he issued orders that the mob which wreaked its mad vengeance on a feeble-minded Negro boy should be dealt with by the arm of the law.

These women and such men as Gov. Ritchie are the true South. They stand for its real spirit. Let us support them by keeping silent when we should, by praising their unselfish devotion and, above all, making them feel that South and North justice to the Negro is a common problem. Just now "careless seems the great avenger," and yet, we must believe, if history has any meaning, "standeth God within the shadows keeping watch above his own."—Letter in The Springfield Republican.

HOUSTON, TEX.
PRESS

FEB 10 1934

Our Lynching Record

THE MAIL BAG

THIS question is a summons to every patriotic American, to every lover of righteousness and justice.

In 1930, there were 21 lynchings; in 1931, 13; in 1932, eight, and in 1933 28! We have been sowing to the wind by glossing over the vile enormity of lynching and have reaped the whirlwind.

It is the plea of the lyncher that an assault on white women must be met by a drastic remedy. The fact, however, is that less than one-sixth of the 3773 persons lynched from 1889 to 1933 were accused of rape. . . . Lawlessness is never a cure for lawlessness, but increases as a deadly contagion. For example, in 1933, one man was lynched for striking a man and another for stealing liquor. . . .

To murder is to kill a human being unlawfully and with premeditated malice, or wilfully, deliberately, and unlawfully. . . . Every member of the mob that lynches is a murderer. He is a cowardly murderer, since he allies himself with other murderous members of a group to commit a crime which he would not dare to do alone. The lyncher not only joins in the murder of a human being and makes impossible a fair trial and the weighing of evidence; he stabs his own moral nature with a wound which never heals. He becomes forever afterward a worse citizen of society. . . . If the conscienceless white hoodlum elements are not checked and dominated by the better element of society, it will mean the destruction of our civilization. They are as depraved and conscienceless as the guiltiest victims whom they shoot or burn. . . . The lynchers not only lynch a human being; they lynch the law itself, which is the safeguard of all human beings. The horror of it is that in the South especially the whites have control of all the machinery of the courts, and yet it is the native whites of the South who are guilty of lynching. . . .

When lynchers attempt self-justification by pleading the imperfect procedure of courts of justice, they may be reminded that in no case is a bungling procedure of the courts and public officials more abundantly illustrated than in their own escape from justice. . . .

The good citizen must be positive in his antagonism to lawlessness. He must be creative in molding public sentiment. The citizens who would scorn to join a mob, and yet who excuse and extenuate the guilt, are the enemies of law and order. . . . If the better element of our population do not arouse themselves aggressively against lynching, they need not complain that their fetish of states' rights is taken from them and it is made a federal offense. Take, by way of contrast, kidnaping and lynching. Kidnaping is mainly an offense against the rich; lynching is an offense against the defenseless. . . . The press may become a fa more powerful agency in creating a better condition. . . . The press too often gives to the public mind the partisan statement of the pro-lynchers, and fails to state the features of the case which throw doubt on the guilt of an accused person. . . . The press should make a marked man of any public official who connives at lynching, and forever end his political career. . . .

The officers of the law and court officials constitute a powerful factor in our lynching situation. We have had conspicuous examples of courage in the face of bitter prejudice on the part of public officials. There were thirty-seven instances in which officers of the law prevented lynchings—six of them in Northern and Western states and 31 in Southern states. All decent citizens will give to such courageous officers their utmost encouragement. . . .

Officers of the law, who have sworn to uphold the law and then proceed to connive at lawlessness, become violators of a solemn oath. They are traitors to their country in time of peace. . . .

The pulpit must speak in no uncertain terms in an arraignment of the growing menace of lynch lawlessness. People should be fortified in the quiet time against the crisis which may arise. Preachers should be reminded to let the Egyptians and Israelites have a good long rest, . . . and to deal in a Christian way with our own social and racial problems.

Preachers who condone or apologize for lynching turn the pulpit into a coward's castle and are unworthy of their calling; they should surrender their credentials and take their place among the renegades of society, where they belong. . . .

In brief, various other organizations, such as our schools, civic and business organizations, and women's clubs, may play a large part in creating a strong public sentiment against lynch lawlessness. Good use can be made of the country weeklies. Finally, we would speak an earnest word to the negro leaders and preachers and ask for their wisest co-operation in making a good record for for 1934.

Altogether we should work and pray that, as dark as is the record of 1933, we may strive with all the higher and holier energies that belong to us to protect 1934 from such a black record.

DR. W. P. KING.

In Christian Advocate (Nashville, Tenn.)

NEW ORLEANS, LA.
TRIBUNE

JAN 25 1934

Two Who Weren't Lynched

(The New York Evening Post)

IN BELAIR, MD., a white girl arrived home one night announcing she had been kidnaped by two Negroes.

Police promptly arrested a pair of suspects, questioned them closely for a week. In many a community the prisoners might well have trembled for their lives. Men have recently been lynched on "evidence" little stronger than that against these two.

But the citizens of Belair had the sense and decency to wait for the orderly processes of justice.

And at the end of a week the girl admitted she had not been kidnaped at all. Her story had been made up as an alibi for staying out late.

This news item ought to be given wide circulation in communities addicted to lynching. It might cause stirrings in a few dormant consciences.

Chattanooga, Tenn., News
February 16, 1934

Lynching and the Law

LYNCHING is a flaunting insult to the courts and their officers. Lawyers, as officers of the courts, sworn to uphold and defend the integrity of the courts, should be the first to direct their efforts toward the serious problem of mob law which confronts the people of America.

In a thoroughgoing discourse on the legal aspects of the lynching problem, Professor James H. Chadbourn, of the University of North Carolina's law school, lays down a program for the lawyers in the current issue of the *American Bar Association Journal*. We commend his article to lawyers for careful study.

Lynching as a challenge to the courts was referred to by President Roosevelt in his recent remarks on the subject. He referred to the "sad state of disrepair" of the legal function, thereby sounding the same note as most of the apologists for lynching, although, be it said, the President's remarks were roundly denunciatory of mob violence. None the less, his reference to the state of law enforcement is significant. The excuse most often given for lynching is that the courts have failed to enforce the criminal laws.

Professor Chadbourn lays all these ghosts anew. The law has not failed. Negroes—and they are the chief victims of the mob—are seldom dealt with lightly by the courts. Crimes against women account for only about one-sixth of the total number of accusations against persons lynching in the United States.

The various attempts to prevent lynching through legal process have thus far all too largely proven inadequate. Convictions have been so few as to be negligible. A tiny ray of hope is seen by Mr. Chadbourn in the fact that many counties that have been fined heavily for permitting a lynching to occur have had no more of these outrages against law.

Further hope, thinks this student of lynching, lies in the injunctive process. Let judges, aware of mob feeling against an accused person, issue an injunction forbidding any one to lay violent hands upon the accused. Violations of this injunction would be tried before the judge, without the handicap of a prejudiced jury, and with no appeal possible.

Finally, Professor Chadbourn sums up the legal aspects of the problem in these words:

"The problem of lynch law, after all, is fundamentally inseparable from the general problem of criminal law administration. Failure to punish lynchers and prevent lynchings is but one of the evils calling for a general strengthening of judicial and administrative processes. Viewed, therefore, at a proper focus, the special measures which we have surveyed are, at best, emergency expedients. This is not to say, however, that they are valueless. They do have value and should be more widely employed. To this end, each State might well enact an anti-mob law with the following broad provisions: (1) Creating lynching as a statutory crime, (2) fining counties for lynchings, (3) summarily removing the delinquent peace officers, (4) enjoining lynchers and punishing them for contempt of court."

SPEEDY JUSTICE TO CURB LYNCHINGS

To the Editor The News:

A great deal is being said at this time about lynchings, not only the Negro but the white criminal. Regardless of the criticism of lynching by the interracial organizations or what not, lynchings will surely increase in number year by year unless the courts speed up trials and convictions are carried out without delay and pardons are not so generously granted, and in addition, until some of the legal profession discontinues such strenuous action to clear a guilty man.

I think any organizations interested in this subject would make far greater progress by working from this angle, as the unusual delays during the past few years have almost forced the public to take these matters in their own hands.

I really think a very smart thing, a most worthwhile thing, for the Negro race to do would be for the better class of Negroes to sponsor a movement themselves and sanction the speedy trials, convictions and executions of any colored criminals instead of in most cases trying to shield them.

Race or color should have nothing in the world to do with the execution of a criminal. I myself am not as big and broad as some others and I am not willing as yet to condemn the governor of California for his attitude in the lynching of white kidnapers in his state recently, and I am sure a very large percentage of this nation's so-called better element feels the same way deep down in their hearts. Again I say, give us speedy action, whether it be hanging or what not, either Negro or white and when this is done you will see lynchings fall off beyond a doubt, and until it is done, lynchings will continue to increase.

LOUIE REESE.

Birmingham.

Avon Park, Fla., Times
February 2, 1934

Tampa should run down and punish those who put a blot on her good name by perpetrating a lynching for which there seems to have been no good reason. But lynchers are very seldom punished. There will ayways be lynchings while those participating feel that they are immune from consequences.

BEAUMONT, TEX.
ENTERPRISE

FEB 4 1934

A MAN WHO HATED LYNCHING

Dr. Joseph Fort Newton tells ~~in the Philadel~~phia Public Ledger a moving story about John Jay Chapman, an author and critic who died recently. When Mr. Chapman was a young man a horrible crime was committed in an eastern town. The crime was so brutal and shocking, the townspeople lost their heads and committed a crime themselves. They lynched the guilty man.

Most of the community's residents soon forgot about the lynching, or ceased to think about it, but it preyed on the mind of Mr. Chapman. When his conscience would permit him to remain silent no longer, he went to the town "hired a hall and held a penitential service—though neither a priest nor a preacher—in which he invoked the forgiveness of God upon the community. No one attended the service but the janitor and one policeman, sent to keep order. None the less Chapman poured out his soul in a litany of lament, as if confessing the sins of his fellows as his own."

Dr. Newton, a noted Philadelphia clergyman thinks Chapman "saw the logic of such acts," and of course he did. To callous and unthinking people his one-man meeting may have looked like the idea of a crank or a sentimentalist. But, if few persons are ever so moved by mob violence as to hold penitential meetings, all persons who abhor lynching, for what it is and for what it means, are similarly moved. They may not have the crusading spirit to get up in public or an empty hall and pray for community forgiveness, but they feel like doing it.

Unfortunately, such emotions follow the commission of the crime. There is another type of crusader who gets better results. He is the sheriff who calmly faces a mob and warns it that the first man who attempts to capture a prisoner will be shot, and that probably several more will be shot if the mob advances upon the sheriff and his deputies. A sheriff of that type can prevent a lynching.

Some years ago a Missisippi community was aroused by the commission of a horrible crime. A mob marched to a hospital where the guilty man lay wounded. It looked as if nothing could prevent a lynching. A preacher who was also the editor of the local newspaper stepped to the door of the hospital, defied the mob and drove it away, single-handed. That sort of courage and determination beats a prayer for forgiveness—and makes the prayer unnecessary.

LOUISVILLE, KY.
TIMES

FEB 9 1934

THE LYNCHING HARVEST

Another lynching of last autumn's crop goes unpunished. At St. Joseph, Missouri, one of the alleged leaders of a mob that hanged and burned a Negro there November 28, is acquitted by a jury, and, since the prosecuting officers regarded the case against this defendant as the strongest against anyone accused of participating in the lynching, all other cases will be dismissed.

The St. Joseph crime followed by just two days the lynching of two kidnapers and murderers at San Jose, California, and was committed while the efforts of Governor RITCHIE of Maryland to bring to justice the lynchers of a Negro at Princess Anne late in October were much in the news.

Like Governor RITCHIE and unlike Governor ROLPH of California, Governor PARK of Missouri denounced the outrage in his State. The Attorney General of Missouri joined in the prosecution.

In the California lynching no attempt was made to vindicate law and order. GovernorROLPH had announced that he would pardon anyone arrested in connection with the crime. In the Maryland case, a grand jury declined to indict. In Missouri twelve good men and true decline to convict.

What Governors may do or say is important, regardless of the fact that, as far as immediate consequences went, Governors RITCHIE and PARK might as well have saved their breath—and Governor ROLPH also, for that matter, because probably the outcome in San Jose would have been as little affected in any event as that at Princess Anne or at St. Joseph.

The fact is that education against lynching has a long way to go before local authorities and local sentiment may be depended upon in every instance. But no reason exists for defeatism. Genuine progress has been made in the course of the years. There were 255 lynchings in the United States in 1892 as against twenty-eight in 1933.

Lynchings - 1934
Discussions

White Press, southern.

4549

NORFOLK, VA.
VIRGINIAN PILOT

MAR 5 1934

Why Congress Is Tempted To Act

The Attorney-General of Maryland, testifying at the hearing on the Costigan-Wagner anti-lynching bill, based his evidence inevitably on the recent tragic events on the Eastern Shore—an almost perfect example of the power of local communities to defy the State. It is an old story now. But as Attorney-General Lane told it, it has details which have not before been published. When asked if he was prepared to furnish the names of men suspected in the Princess Anne lynching of the Negro George Armwood, he said, "I am;" and thereupon furnished a voluminous report. We select one portion out of many similar ones:

Rusty Heath—Full name is believed to be Marby L. Heath.

Occupation—Unknown, but was formerly jailer at the jail at Salisbury.

Address—Princess Anne, formerly Salisbury.

Heath is well known by sight by many of the force who were present on the night of the lynching. He is postively identified by Officers Bradley, Serman, Schleuter, Durham, Corporal Falkenstein, Sergeants Dryden, Haddaway, Webber and Lieutenant Ridgely. He was seen in front of the hotel at the Deals Island intersection before the jail, at the tree where the Negro was first hanged, and by Judge Duer's car as he made his speech. He was drunk, was in the front of the crowd, shoving, yelling and encouraging the crowd, while in front of the jail he was shoving to get on the steps and while at the first hanging had the rope in his hand as the Negro's body was laying on the ground. ~~He was~~ also seen pulling on the other end of the rope while the Negro was hanged.

The mere citation above does not mean, of course, that this man was guilty. His defense has not been heard. But the point is that this information about him (as well as similar information about several others) was supplied to a grand jury by the Attorney-General. What the grand jury has done is also familiar history. It returned no indictments and apparently has washed its hands of the whole business.

If anyone wishes to know why Congress is seriously considering taking charge of the lynching problem through Federal dence of futility embodied in this record legislation, he has the answer in the evi

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LYNCHBURG, VA.
NEWS

FEB 15 1934

IN THE "DEEP SOUTH"

In California a mob attacks a jail and takes two prisoners from their cells and lynches them. There is no resistance.

In Maryland a Negro is taken from prison over the ~~resistance~~ of state police and lynched to the usual accompaniment of sadistic revelries.

In Missouri a Negro is taken from prison over the resistance of the sheriff and lynched.

In Mississippi a mob seeks three Negroes for the purpose of lynching them. National guardsmen protect the prisoners and they are not lynched.

The explanation of the California affair is simple. The authorities make themselves a part of the mob They urge the mob on to mass murder and the governor, after compounding murder, praises the murderers. But what is the explanation of the success of the mobs in two border states and its failure in a far southern state? Are Mississippi mobs more cowardly than the ordinary run of mobs, or are the police and guardsmen more courageous? Or is it that Mississippi is more accustomed to handling mobs, or the authorities more vigilant?

Anyway there wasn't a lynching in Mississippi and we are spared bombastic announcements from high authorities about what is going to be done to bring the lynchers to justice.

LOUISVILLE, KY.
HERALD POST

MAR 10 1934

MOB VIOLENCE RECORD.

(Des Moines Register.)

The disgraceful toll of lives taken by bloodthirsty mobs in this country during 1933 can well give serious pause to every good citizen who pretends to belong to a decent society.

Is there some tangible reason why the number of lynchings, after a rather consistent ~~decline ever~~ since 1885, should have leaped back from the low record of eight in 1932 to twenty-eight in 1933—a higher total than in any year since 1926?

Probably some sort of case could be made for several explanations—the release of emotions strained by several trying years economically; the reaction to overthrow of an unpopular constitutional law, climaxing a general disregard for law; the influence of resort to force throughout the world; popular indignation toward a rampant social sore, kidnaping, and so on.

None of these alone, obviously, would do. But they are worth thinking about. For the American people must find a cure.

RALEIGH, N. C.
NEWS OBSERVER

MAR 2 1934

LYNCHING.

To the Editor: There is appreciable Southern sentiment unlike the apostatic toadyism which abjures the faith of the American fathers.

Already has the Constitution been desecrated in behalf of negroism; is the Constitution—like ~~the Declara~~tion of Independence, in behalf of centralism—to be totally annulled in behalf of Africo-American citizenship?

And, after all that has been said and attempted, is it solicitude for majesty of the law, welfare of depraved villains, or inordinate desire to specialize in philanthropy, "afflatuate" and "show off," that righteousness has been so severely aroused against lynch law? Or is it merely obeisance to a minatory gesture of negroism similar to that which forbade a well-conceived presidential appointment to the Supreme Court?

Most desirable citizens are opposed to lynching; only most undesirable citizens are lynched. The victims of lynch law pass unremembered and unsung, their passing causes no "aching void."

Lynchers respect the purpose of the law but have no respect for the efficiency of its administration. If administration of the law is made respectable it will be respected—lynching will cease.

Lynching is deplorable; so is the manner in which it is deplored; especially deplorable is the absurd extraordinary remedy suggested. meekly surmise that political philanthropy, pathological sympathy, emotion and craze for limelight exposure are responsible for the present crusade against lynching. The anti lynching frenzy merely "sticks in the bark" and abounds in ballyhoo and piffle. When our deified Lincoln destroyed State sovereignty "State Rights" ceased to exist "State Rights" without State sovereignty is like the royal prerogative of a dethroned monarch. Another thing—before exploits of the North's arch-devils of "Reconstruction," victims of Southern lynchings were confined to the white race

JOS. L. SEAWELL.

Wake Forest, N. C.

ATHENS, GA.
BANNER HERALD

FEB 28 1934

LYNCHING SCORED AT KIWANIS CLUB

Race Hatred, Economic Rivalry Major Causes, M. D. Dunlap Says

Race hatred and economic rivalry were named as two of the major causes of lynching by Professor M. D. Dunlap of the University, who spoke before the Kiwanis club Tuesday at Costa's

"Whether economic rivalry causes the race hatred, or whether the two factors are separate and distinct is hard to say," Mr. Dunlap stated, "but certainly they represent the principal causes of lynching."

The speaker explained that while economic rivalry between the two races does not exist in the South among the white-collar class, it is a real factor among the class of whites who form the mobs. He brought before the club figures which bore out his statements, in that the largest percentage of victims were colored and the greater number of ~~lynchings~~ in the South.

Statistics, he showed would indicate that the usual defense of mob violence in the South—the protection of womanhood—is a fallacy, since only a minor number of the lynchings in the past 40 years have been caused by alleged attacks on white women.

Other factors which Mr. Dunlap placed among the causes of lynching were ignorance, blood-lust and slowness of the courts.

"Ignorance enters into the picture," he said, "both as it affects the victim and the mob. Statistics show that comparatively few victims have progressed beyond grammar school, and many of them not furhter than the fourth and fifth grades. The same truth applies generally speaking to the leaders of the mobs, although other not further than the fourth and ences to act as spectators."

In mentioning the blood-lust factor, the speaker gave graphic instances of lynchings in which punishment amounting to slow torture was administered to the victim while the crowd watched avidly. The slowness of the courts to Professor Dunlap is a minor factor, he said, since lynchings seldom occur in cases where the courts are delayed. He presented several instances of this fact showing that in many cases mobs continue to storm prisons, although the would-be victims had already been tried and sentenced to hang within a short period.

"The greatest danger of lynching," Professor Dunlap stated, "is its menace to orderly government. It puts the power of judiciary and law-making into the hands of an irresponsible, prejudiced, and ignorant group of people. It is the beginning of revolution, and is a menace not only to our government but to our religion as well.

"It is degrading, as well," he said, "to the people who act as spectators at such an event. Its effect on them is bad, as is witnessed by the fact that legal executions are no longer made public. If legal executions are considered to have degrading and debasing effects on those who witness them, what effect can lynching with its attendant horrors have?

"This is a problem which confronts the South in particular," the speaker concluded. "I come to you as a Southerner and have tried to present this grave problem fairly. It is one which we alone can solve, and it is up to men such as the members of this and similar organization to face it squarely and try to do something about it."

Announcement of a special divisional meeting to be held Friday night in Commerce at which Divisional Governor Mark Smith will speak. A delegation from the Athens club will attend.

Birmingham, Ala., News
March 17, 1934

RACIAL PROBLEMS VITAL TO SOUTH

Lynching Styled Resort To Savagery In Address By Feidelson

FLORENCE, Ala. — Southerners are vitally interested in the racial problems with which they are confronted and they should be candid and courageous in approaching them, Judge Charles N. Feidelson, associate editor of The Birmingham Age-Herald, said in an address at Florence State Teachers College. One of these is lynching which, he said, "we are disposed to steer clear of, but it is a problem that touches most vitally not only the Negro but his white compatriot."

The War Between the States, he said, "left its major taint upon the majority; we are constantly shadowed by a dark presence; our psychology is colored by what we call the Negro question. So many things of life are shaped by the presence of this alien race. The right, the wise, the civilized solution, amelioration and adjustment of this problem is of incalculable importance to the white just as it is of simple justice to the Negro.

"The Negro is in this country because he was brought here as a slave by New Englanders—not because he sought to make his home here. Economic pressure made him a problem in the South.

"With his freedom the Negro, unlike the serf of the Old World, was afloat, untrained, but endowed with civil rights he was not qualified to handle.

"When the Negro was freed the white was enslaved. Today we are motivated by that trend of thinking forced upon us in the days of reconstruction."

But, he added, the Negro is building for himself a racial integrity and we should be prepared to face as realities this question of his position among us.

He said about 3,800 lynchings had occurred since 1889, but in 1932 there were only eight, and 34 in 1933. Twelve persons have been punished in the 3,800 lynching instances, he pointed out.

"Lynching," he said, "denies every mandate of civilization. It is a resort to savagery; a return to the primitive; ethically, legally there is no justification for it."

Nashville, Tenn. Banner
March 13, 1934

Nashville Women Honored at Meeting

Methodist Missionary Council Approves Anti-Lynching Bill

Nashville leaders who have been attending the annual meeting of the Woman's Missionary Council at Birmingham, Ala., March 7-12, returned Tuesday morning, following adjournment Monday night.

Officers of the council were reelected with the exception of Mrs. B. W. Lipscomb of Nashville, secretary of education and promotion; and Mrs. J. C. Handy of Jefferson, Texas, vice-president, both of whom declined to stand for reelection. Mrs. Helen B. Bourne, professor of religious education at Athens College, Athens, Ala., was elected to succeed Mrs. Lipscomb and will enter upon her new duties June 1, removing to Nashville headquarters. Mrs. J. W. Mills of Beaumont, Texas was elected to the vice-presidency. Mrs. Hume R. Steele of Nashville was elected a member of the council from the church at large. Women from the offices in Nashville reelected for a four-year term include Mrs. J. W. Perry, president, now of Chattanooga, Tenn.; Mrs. F. S. Parker, recording secretary; Mrs. Ina Davis Fulton, treasurer; Miss Estelle Haskin, secretary of publications; Miss Constance Rumbough, secretary of children's work; Mrs. J. W. Downs, secretary of home missions; Miss Sallie Lou MacKinnon, secretary of foreign missions, and the following members at large: Miss Mabel K. Howell, Miss Louise Young, Mrs. A. B. Smith, Miss Margaret Young.

Other Nashvillians who attended the meeting in an official capacity and returned today were: Mrs. C. W. Turpin, Mrs. Henry Conatser, Mrs. D. A. Reavis, Miss Lucy Russell, Miss Sadie Garth, Miss Mary Ora Durham, Dr. J. L. Cuninggim, and a number of missionaries and deaconesses from Nashville institutions and Scarritt College, including Miss Rosa May Butler, consecrated to the life and work of a foreign missionary, and Miss Edith Garst Woolsey, consecrated to the service of a deaconess.

Leaders pronounced the recent meeting one of the most successful in recent years. A financial pledge exceeding $800,000 was made to carry on work under the council in 1935.

The council pledged to support the NRA movement by patronizing industries that meet conditions of the NRA, and especially to look for the NRA label when purchasing garments. Other measures adopted include new offensives against liquor and efforts to secure teaching the effects of alcohol in the public schools; support of the Costigan anti-lynching bill; protest against compulsory military training in tax supported institutions of learning; efforts to see that Negroes are permitted to exercise voting rights in primary elections; protest against the pending Vinson bill authorizing replacements in the Navy at a cost of approximately $1,000,000,000 including big battle ships; participating in the TVA project by furnishing a social worker in connection with interdenominational movements, and strong petitions to the approaching general conference of the denomination asking for legislation insuring to women larger and more proportionate representation of women in places of responsibility and activity throughout the church, including eligibility to the ministerial office.

Columbia, S. C. State
March 8, 1934

Local Officers and Lynching.

The majority of the citizens of Southern states resent the idea of the federal government's assuming jurisdiction over cases involving lynching. Let the South handle its own affairs is the cry. Let local officers look out for these things. Let the sheriff, who is responsible, protect his prisoners. Or, if a prisoner be taken from him let the sheriff who lost his charge bring members of the mob to justice. Each lynching is a crime of a certain locality. Let that community get behind the local officers and see that the crime is punished. This in accord with the local self-government that the South believes in, a principle of government that we inherited, the Southerner may say, from Anglo-Saxon forefathers.

To see just how the local handling of lynching works, consider the following:

Of the 28 lynchings of 1933, 15 were given special investigation by white men and women under sponsorship of the Association of Southern Women for the Prevention of Lynching. Report from this organization on these 15 is that:

Officers of the law connived at or participated in six.
Probably connived in one.
Refused to act in one.
Ordered arrests in one.
Attempted indictment in four.
Secured indictments in two.

In the two cases where indictments were secured, one was remanded to the files on account of the cost of prosecution. In the other, four men are out on $1,000 bond each. Up to the time of issuing the report, there had been two terms of court since the lynching, and at neither were the cases called.

Those who approve of federal jurisdiction can say with truth that the local officers are not handling the cases to the interest of justice. Local self-government, they can point out, is one thing as theory. Local self-government that almost habitually allows the murderer to go unpunished is distinctly not what was intended as a practice of that theory.

As has been said over and over again, the question of federal intervention in lynching cases is in the hands of the South. If the South deals seriously and honestly with the lynching evil, both in prevention and in punishment, the rest of the country will be willing to let the matter rest with the South.

Selma, Ala. Times
March 14, 1934

SIGNIFICANT

If lynching is to be stamped out, Southerners will do it. That fact makes the condemnation of lynching by the Woman's Missionary Council of the Methodist Church, South, a very significant development. When 1,000 women, representing every part of this section, are willing to speak out so ringingly against lynching, against the immunity which lynchers have enjoyed, against the weakness of courts when dealing with participants in mob violence, we may be sure that forces are stirring in this region which shall yet succeed in wipign out this darkest blot upon our life.

The resolution approved by the Mississippi Council Monday stated that 3,781 persons have been lynched since 1889, and that only 12 lynchers have been convicted for their offenses. The statistical argument might have been carried a little farther. It might have been shown that lynching has become a Southern and a racial affair. It might have been shown that in less than one-sixth of the 3,781 lynchings had the charge of rape been lodged.

If courts have been weak, if lynchers have not been tried or have gone scot free, the real responsibility rests upon public opinion, which in the past has been indifferent or acquiescent, which in any event has not given the authorities, whether officials or judges, the support to which they were entitled. That condition is changing. A new attitude is making itself felt among us. The lyncher defending the white womanhood of the South is now being denounced by his ward.—Birmingham Age-Herald.

Emory-Alabama Debate Canceled After Protests

Advertiser
3-18-34

ATLANTA, March 17.—(AP)—A debate between teams from the University of Alabama and Emory University on the question "resolved that the present outburst of mob violence is justifiable" scheduled for tonight, was canceled after protests were made by Atlanta citizens.

Lake City, Fla., Gazette
June 25, 1934

HOW LYNCH LAW DEGENERATED

"The term "lynch law" is derived, says a historical note, "from a Virginian, Charles Lynch (1733-96) who dealt summarily though always without the death penalty, with lawbreakers in his community, early in the Revolution."

"Showing that even if begun in times of stress and storm when apparently justified, a wrong rule of action, if allowed to live, grows worse with the passing years.

Today the term, "lynching" invariably means the death penalty inflicted in the heat of mass insanity, the mob becoming judge, court, jury and executioner, combined, with little or no semblance of impartial investigation or hearing.

Let the good people of the Sunny South continue to combat the lynching evil as they have fought it of late, and soon no southern peace officer will allow a mob to take his prisoner except over that officer"s dead body.

JACKSON, MISS.
NEWS

JUN 16 1934

NEGRO GROUP SCORES DELTA MOB LYNCHING

Wires Demanding "Immediate Prosecution" of Officers for Hangings

A report of officers, showing that they did everything humanly possible to protect two negroes who confessed to a criminal attack on a 19-year-old white girl, was revealed by Governor Conner here today, after receiving a telegram from the Frederick Douglass branch, League of Struggle for Negro Rights, New York City, demanding "immediate prosecution" of the mob members.

"Protest lynching two negro youths, demand immediate prosecution of officers of law and mob, hold you personally responsible," the wire said.

Governor Conner, who some months ago went to considerable expense for the state to protect from a mob three negroes executed at Hernando for a similar offense, pointed out today that he knew nothing of the Quitman county affair in which Joe Love and Isaac Thomas, each 25, were strung up until the negroes had been hanged.

The report of District Attorney Greek Rice who investigated the affair, said that the negroes confessed to the attack when the sheriff went to Greenwood, where they had been apprehended, to get them. Hearing rumors of mob action, the sheriff and party headed for the Jackson jail, but were cut off by the mob, and doubled back, only to be caught at a single bridge near Hushpuckna, where leaders of the mob showed automatics in the faces of the officers and took the negroes away from them.

Lynchings-1934
6
Discussions.

White Press, Southern.

4550

[redacted]

FLORIDA STANDS ACCUSED

Whether the slaying of the negro Jackson near Tampa was a well planned lynching or simply an unexpected termination of an act of revenge, has not fully been determined. The facts remain that a negro was removed from one place of confinement to another under the custody of a Constable at an outlandish hour in the morning and that act of removal was known to the parties interested in the slaying.

The affair lacked the glamour which usually accompanies the acts of a cowardly mob. But the negro was just as dead as any other victim of a mob's violence. To avert suspicion that the Constable produced the victim for the benefit of the gangsters, will require some tall explaining. The whole affair is distasteful to the peaceful citizens of Florida, and the sooner the matter is investigated to the bottom and the guilty persons punished, just that much sooner will Florida resume her rightful place in the eyes of those who demand fair play,—even for a suspected man.

Lakeland, Fla., Ledger
February 2, 1934

SOUTHERN FACULTY, STUDENTS DENOUNCE LYNCHING AT TAMPA

Faculty and students of Southern college this morning denounced by resolution the recent lynching in Tampa of Robert Johnson, negro, and President Ludd M. Spivey delivered a scorching address in which he denounced the lynchers as "a gang of unrighteous, ignorant, vile brutes."

Copies of the resolution have been wired to Governor Sholtz and to Mayor Chancey of Tampa.

"That lynching was one of the worst crimes to be committed in Florida in the last 150 years," Dr. Spivey said. "It is more terrible to crucify and kill a black man than it is to kill a white man, for the black man is at a disadvantage. His black skin has been imposed upon him.

"The American flag is lynched when such a dastardly crime is permitted," Dr. Spivey continued. "The women of Florida ought to be ashamed that an organization of women in Georgia were the first to protest that Tampa lynching.

"If such brutality and lawlessness are the final consequence of civilization, then I don't care for it.

"The only way for such a thing to be wiped out is for our people to see the horror of it. Public opinion must reign against lynching.

"I venture that some of the white brutes who helped lynch that negro are members of the church. And what a tragedy that a crime like that can be committed in a community where there are churches.

"If the mob is going to rule us, then all that is necessary for your life to be taken is that somebody report that you have stolen a chicken.

"It is possible that the men who seized the prisoner had no advance notice that he was to be transferred from one jail to another at 2 o'clock in the morning, but that is hard for me to believe. That is too much of a coincidence. The lynchers couldn't have had that much intuition."

Jacksonville, Fla.
JOURNAL
FEB 3 1934

CALLS LYNCHERS IGNORANT, VILE

College President Denounces Tampa Crime

LAKELAND, Feb. 3—(AP)—Faculty and students of Southern college have condemned in a resolution the recent murder in Tampa of Robert Johnson, negro, by a band of white men.

Copies of the resolution were sent to Governor Sholtz and Mayor Chancey of Tampa.

The resolution was adopted after Dr. Ludd M. Spivey, president of Southern, had made a vigorous address deploring the Tampa crime.

Dr. Spivey called the negro's murderers "a gang of unrighteous, ignorant, vile men."

He said it was the worst crime committed in Florida within the last 150 years.

"I venture that some of the white brutes who helped lynch that negro profess to be good members of the church. If such brutality is the final consequence of civilization, then I don't care for it. The American flag is lynched when such a dastardly crime is committed by white men who call themselves civilized," he said.

MIAMI, FLA.
HERALD
JAN 31 1934

FLORIDA disgraced by inexcusable lynching. Robert Johnson, negro, charged with stealing chickens and suspected of attack on woman, taken from deputy at Tampa and shot. And reports indicate that the law might have been in league with the killers. For the negro was removed from the city jail in the middle of the night by a constable and the lynchers were on hand to commit the crime. Governor Sholtz called upon to act against the lynchers. And he must if the shame is to be removed from the state escutcheon.

CHARLESTON, S. C.
NEWS
JAN 31 1934

Denouncing Lynchers

On the point of imposing sentences on twenty-three defendants convicted of a mob outrage in 1925, Judge N. A. Sinclair, of North Carolina, said:

"What is called the unwritten law is nothing in the world but the excuse of cowards to justify their own lawlessness. The old sentiment that because some woman has been wronged you must revert to barbarism and become savages, taking the law into your own hands and redressing such wrong, is a reflection upon civilization. Men who ought to know better from time to time attempt to justify and excuse such conduct. It is absolutely poison running through the state and the men who express such sentiments are bad citizens and a positive menace to the government of the state. That sentiment must be wiped out in North Carolina."

The Baltimore Evening Sun applauds Judge Sinclair's statement from the bench and emphasizes that the trial in that case took place only a month and fifteen days after the commission of the outrage. "Forty-five days after the crime the members of the mob were on their way to prison, and for years there was no more lynching in North Carolina."

In Maryland, ninety-five days after a mob outrage "the grand jury is just being charged." The trial judge charged the grand jury:

"The substitution of mob rule for the orderly administration of the law is not only a backward step from civilization toward barbarism, but the exercise of that rule at times results in the punishment of the innocent or the punishment inflicted is greater than the offender might deserve. The consideration that is to be given and the questions to be determined, in deciding the innocence or guilt of the prisoner, are not properly considered or determined by the excited mob. The conclusion of guilt and the determination to inflict punishment are sometimes reached, based upon little or no consideration."

The Evening Sun finds the foregoing "a mild-mannered dissent from occasional decisions of the mob". All the world "knows that the sort of talk Judge Sinclair made was effective. It will be interesting to see if the sort of talk Judge Patterson made will be equally effective in eliminating the poison now running through Maryland."

Plain-speaking judges of state criminal courts appear to be less common than they were when Judge Sinclair was presiding nearly forty years ago. The let-down of the courts has probably been less pronounced than has been the let-down of the public. The North Carolina judge spoke a language the lynchers could understand whereas the Maryland judge was probably talking over the heads of the defendants. The sort of man who participates in a lynching has no ear for softly-spoken denunciation.

NEW ORLEANS, LA.
TRIBUNE
FEB 2 1934

After Florida Lynchers

THE Floridians, given a lynching, do even better than Kentuckians did a week ago in repudiating the crime. State's Attorney Farrior at Tampa declares:

"I shall never stop this investigation until all members of the lynch mob are arrested. This will be the South's answer to Northern charges that lynching of Negroes is condoned in Southern states."

As we recall accounts of the Tampa lynching, the mob was small. Still, the arrest of all its members is a large order. But Mr Farrior's is the right spirit. With a little luck, so much earnestness might earn him a conviction, which will be more than is commonly recorded for lynching sequels. He may be assured that the North will be impressed by only one conviction. What is more important, the vicious and stupid elements in and around Tampa that are susceptible to mob-fever will be even more impressed.

TAMPA, FLA.
TRIBUNE
FEB 1 1934

Get These Murderers!

The killing of the negro Robert Johnson cannot correctly be classified as a lynching, according to the accepted meaning of that term. There was no "infuriated mob", no identification of the "fiendish assailant" by his "outraged victim", no attack on jail or defending officers, in fact no charge of the "usual offense" had been made against the prisoner. He was taken from the officer by a group of men, at an hour most convenient for their purpose, and, without riot r demonstration, shot to death.

It was deliberate, cold-blooded murder.

What are we going to do about it?

Governor Sholtz acted promptly. He ordered the Sheriff and the State Attorney to get busy at once, to "make immediate and diligent investigation", to "bring to speedy justice" these murderers. These officers are held directly responsible for the utmost vigilance to apprehend the killers.

It may be there was some other reason for doing away with the negro than suspicion of a criminal assault. He was held under a manifestly faked charge of stealing chickens. The police had nothing to warrant keeping him in custody. He was taken from the city prison by a constable at the hour when the murderers were waiting, on the route taken by the officer to the county jail. Evidently there had been careful preparation for the "execution." The murderers knew just what was to be done with their victim, and at just what time. Evidently all the shots were fired from one pistol, by one person. The investigating officers may find it possible to have the constable refresh his memory as to the appearance or identity of the killers. They were, he says, unmasked. He must have had considerable opportunity to see their faces as he says they surrounded and attacked him and he plainly heard their voices.

However that may be, a dastardly murder has been committed, and under circumstances which justify strong suspicion as to motives other than those usually inciting mob violence. Every person who knew the negro or knows anything bearing upon the case should communicate the information immediately to the State Attorney or the Sheriff. These officers are charged with the responsibility of tracing this crime to its source, of bringing the perpetrators to justice. The public will not be inclined to accept any excuse. They are "on the spot" and it is up to them to perform.

Not only in vindication of the good name, the peace and order of the community, but in justice to the law-abiding negro citizens of Tampa, this murder must not be permitted to go unpunished. Tampa has a negro citizenry second to none in the country for peaceful, law-abiding conduct, for industry, for efforts to elevate the standards and civic responsibilities of their race, for intelligent and constructive leadership. Race trouble has been entrely unknown here for many years. They are entitled to the protection of the law. When one of their race, against whom no charge or proof of crime has been made, is deliberately and foully murdered, it is the duty of good white citizenship and of official authority to do everything possible to discover the perpetrators and put them in line for the legal execution of the penalty they inflicted on their helpless victim.

New Smyrna, Fla. News
February 1, 1934

THE LYNCHING PROBLEM

The subject of lynchings is a ticklish one in the South—not because the South is less law-abiding than the other sections of the nation, but because of the widespread feeling, backed up by the experiences of the past, that there are times when lynching is actually necessary for the protection of the innocent from the depredations of the brutal and unmoral.

It is to be regretted that Florida should start out early in the year with a lynching, and the impropriety of it is increased by the fact that it appears that at the time of nabbing the negro, the evidence was not conclusive that the mob had the guilty man. The best that can be done under the circumstances is to hold the investigation which is now upnder way, and bring the guilty parties to justice. In the long run, the State will be the better off if the punishment of all criminals is left to the proper authorities. There is little question but that the negro would have been given his just dues through the legal processes of the courts. On the other hand, when the crime with which he negro was charged reaches one's own community, there is a somewhat different feeling. There is that fact to contend with in the lynching problem.

Sebring, Fla., American
February 1, 1934

FLORIDA STANDS ACCUSED

Whether the slaying of the negro Jackson near Tampa, was a well planned lynching or simply an unexpected termination of an act of revenge, has not fully been determined. The facts remain that a negro was removed from one place of confinement to another under the custody of a Constable at an outlandish hour in the morning and that act of removal was known to the parties interested in the slaying.

The affair lacked the glamour which usually accompanies the acts of a cowardly mob. But the negro was just as dead as any other victim of a mob's violence. To avert suspicion that the Constable produced the victim for the benefit of the gangsters, will require some tall explaining. The whole affair is distasteful to the peaceful citizens of Florida, and the sooner the matter is investigated to the bottom and the guilty persons punished, just that much sooner will Florida resume her rightful place in the eyes of those who demand fair play,—even for a suspected man.

Columbia. S. C. Record
January 31, 1934

Feeding the Flames.

The other day it was Kentucky and now it is Florida adding fuel to the flames of the federal anti-lynching law movement.

At Tampa a negro, accused of an attack upon a white woman, although there was not evidence enough to support the issuance of a warrant against him on the charge, was safely held in jail. At 2:30 o'clock yesterday morning a deputy constable appeared at the jail with warrants for the man's arrest on a charge of petit larceny and the prisoner was turned over to him. He did not explain why he came for the man at such an outlandish hour. The jailer didn't ask any questions. Less than a dozen blocks away from the city jail however, members of the mob was waiting and prisoner and officer were captured. The negro driven into the country, was shot and killed. The deputy constable, who had been the means of delivering the prisoner into the slayers' hands, was turned aloose to make his way back afoot.

Like most lynchings this was, if the news stories are correct, easily preventable. There was apparently no reason for the negro's transfer fom the protected city jail and no excuse for his being delivered to the deputy constable. The normal procedure, pending the outcome of the investigation of the more serious charge, need only have been followed and Florida would have been spared the disgrace and danger inherent in all manifestations of the mob spirit. But this simple precaution was not taken and in Washington congressmen will argue with some show of reason that the states are unable or unwilling to take the precautions necessary to prevent lynchings.

If the South wants to guarantee that the congress shall pass one or another of the pending anti-lynching laws it has put to keep on as Florida and Kentucky have begun.

Lynchings-1934

Discussions.

White Press, Southern.

4551

CHARLESTON, S. C.
POST

FEB 10 1934

Lynching is still about the safest crime that can be committed in this country and lynchings will be popular just so long as that is true.

Tampa, Fla., Times
February 7, 1934

Negro Ministers Condemn Lynching

Condemning the lynching of a negro prisoner and calling on law-enforcement agencies to exert every effort to bring the guilty persons to justice, the Inter-denominational Alliance of Negro Ministers of Tampa has adopted resolutions as follows:

Because of the negro being a law abiding citizen, generally;

Because of the fair attitude on the part of the leading white citizens toward the negro residents of Tampa;

Because of the outrage committed Tuesday morning, Jan. 30, when an officer of the law at the city prison released to man in the wee hours of the morning, a helpless negro prisoner;

Because of the fair name of Florida, our county and our city having been besmirched with this heinous act; and

Because of the helplessness in which the better class of negroes find themselves;

Be it resolved that the Inter-denominational Negro Ministers' Alliance unanimously adopts the resolution urging the officers of the law to use every means to fix the responsibility for the act, cause the guilty person or persons to pay the extreme penalty, and to make life more secure for the negro citizens of Tampa, Hillsborough County and of Florida.

BIRMINGHAM, ALA.
AGE HERALD

FEB 17 1934

Southern Foes Of Lynching

A neighbor, of Southern birth, tells me that justice for the Negro is more likely to be achieved if we Northerners let the finer people in the South deal with this matter unhampered by our suggestions. A young college trained Negro who has taught in the South agrees with her and their common position is strengthened by the recent organization of Southern women who have undertaken to stop lynching.

At the same time, there is an approach to the problem which we Northerners can and should make: that of sympathy and appreciation when Southerners do plead with their own people to refrain from mob violence when the color question is rife. We can let our Southern friends know that such gallantry on their part is recognized by us as a distinct contribution to the national welfare. I would walk many miles, even in this cold weather, to meet those Southern women who show the same courage which was manifested by the boys in gray on the battlefield. All honor to them, for they revive our faith in womanhood. If they succeed the sections will be reunited in one common America.

Nor let us forget Gov. Ritchie, who risked his popularity by demanding the arrest of the Maryland lynchers. Their savage retort to him indicates the risk he ran. When the memory of his brilliant administration of the state of Maryland is forgotten, some of us will remember how from a sick bed he issued orders that the mob which wreaked its mad vengeance on a feeble-minded Negro boy should be dealt with by the arm of the law.

These women and such men as Gov. Ritchie are the true South. They stand for its real spirit. Let us support them by keeping silent when we should, by praising their unselfish devotion and, above all, making them feel that South and North justice to the Negro is a common problem. Just now "careless seems the great avenger," and yet, we must believe, if history has any meaning, "standeth God within the shadows keeping watch above his own."—Letter in The Springfield Republican.

BIRMINGHAM, ALA.
NEWS

FEB 17 1934

SPEEDY JUSTICE TO CURB LYNCHINGS

To the Editor The News:

A great deal is being said at this time about lynchings, not only the Negro but the white criminal. Regardless of the criticism of lynching by the interracial organizations or what not, lynchings will surely increase in number year by year unless the courts speed up trials and convictions are carried out without delay and pardons are not so generously granted, and in addition, until some of the legal profession discontinues such strenuous action to clear a guilty man.

I think any organizations interested in this subject would make far greater progress by working from this angle, as the unusual delays during the past few years have almost forced the public to take these matters in their own hands.

I really think a very smart thing, a most worthwhile thing, for the Negro race to do would be for the better class of Negroes to sponsor a movement themselves and sanction the speedy trials, convictions and executions of any colored criminals instead of in most cases trying to shield them.

Race or color should have nothing in the world to do with the execution of a criminal. I myself am not as big and broad as some others and I am not willing as yet to condemn the governor of California for his attitude in the lynching of white kidnapers in his state recently, and I am sure a very large percentage of this nation's so-called better element feels the same way deep down in their hearts. Again I say, give us speedy action, whether it be hanging or what not, either Negro or white, and when this is done you will see lynchings fall off beyond a doubt, and until it is done, lynchings will continue to increase.

LOUIE REESE.

Birmingham.

JOURNAL
McComb, Miss.

FEB 15 1934

NO MORE LYNCHING

The speed with which justice was meted out to those three negroes at Hernando Monday is most commendable and satisfying. The negroes pleaded guilty to a dastardly crime, and had no defense to offer. There was but one thing to do, and those DeSoto countians did that very thing.

Just such action as this will go a long way towards destroying lynch law in Mississippi, or anywhere else, for that matter. But there are crimes which call for immediate punishment. If people could feel assured that punishment would be legally inflicted without undue delay, as in this case, lynching would be a thing of the past.

These negroes were guilty of a crime, according to their own confessions, which makes every white man's blood boil. It calls for the severest punishment that can be inflicted by the law. Whenever this is forthcoming without delay, there will be no mob violence.

Mississippi went through last year without a lynching. It is to be hoped she will do the same this year. It was feared that we might start the new year with a black mark against the record, but such has not been the case, thanks to the quick and satisfactory action of the Hernando court.

All that is required to forever eliminate lynching in Mississippi is the assurance that swift and certain punishment will be meted out to those charged with crime of this character. There's no other way.

Mrs. John Consumer is beginning to wonder when this "New Deal" is going to give her some face cards in lieu of the deuces and treys now falling on her side of the table. Mrs. Consumer is especially troubled when she goes to a grocery store and pays about $5 for a batch of groceries that used to cost her from $3 to $3.50. She doesn't blame the grocer, of course, but there is an idea lurking in the back of her mind that when the producer gets all fixed up something ought to be done in behalf of the consumer who outnumbers the producer by about five to one.—Daily News.

Henry Ford says he will not be satisfied until former wage standards are in effect again. "The best economy industry can practice," he asserts, "is to raise wages." What it will take to satisfy Henry will be perfectly agreeable to all wage-earners.

Solved at last. "Most of our financial difficulties," declares Editor Sullens, "result from spending money we haven't got for something we don't need."

Gainesville, Ga., News
May 30, 1934

Time To Call A Halt

Disrespect for law and order and the courts is growing each day. This fact cannot be denied, otherwise how can one explain the riots and lynchings which have recently swept the entire United States? It was the fear of the people that the courts, thru minor technicalities, would not deal justice, hence they took the law into their own hands.

The News is thankful that we live in a section of pure Anglo-Saxon people, who know right from wrong, and who stand for justice according to law. The courts in this county are also fortunate in having such judges as Underwood, Gaillard and Whelchel presiding over them—men who are fair-minded and anxious to see that justice is done.

However, the rest of the country is not so fortunate. Daily can be found in the papers where lawyers and judges are guilty of committing great wrongs.

The practice of law, a noble profession, is fast falling into disrepuie in some sections due to the number of shysters who have crept into its ranks. How they got there is a question, but it is most important to get them out. That is an important question for the Georgia Bar Association to consider at its Savannah meeting this year. The medical profession has practically eliminated the "quack" doctor. Why cannot the legal profession eliminate the "shyster" lawyer? The local bar association keeps up its personell well, therefore why cannot other places keep their ranks clean?

BIRMINGHAM, ALA.
NEWS
MAY 18 1934

Another Example Of California Justice

There are many persons over the country who will feel that a sentence of life imprisonment is a rather light sentence for the three men who have pleaded guilty to the charge of kidnaping William F. Gettle, the Beverly Hills millionaire. In view of the vast stir that has been made over these crimes of abduction, one will hear the opinion that the three men who have confessed their responsibility in the Gettle case should have been hanged or electrocuted at the earliest possible moment.

The country will remember that only a few months ago Gov. Rolph, of California, stirred the indignation of the public by declaring that the lynchings at San Jose were justified by the crime of abduction of which the victims supposedly were guilty. The governor at that time issued a ringing statement that the San Jose affair would serve as a fine object lesson for any persons who might be contemplating abduction or extortion in California. But it appears that the California lynching bee did not have the effect of discouraging all the potential kidnapers from operating in that state.

What will be Gov. Rolph's unofficial thoughts about the sentences imposed in the Gettle case Would he have solved the legal problem involved by turning the three prisoners over to an armed and infuriated mob? Whatever else may be said about the decision of the Los Angeles court, one may hope that its balanced attitude will be a lesson to Gov. Rolph. And the nation as a whole now has evidence that not everyone in California thinks of justice in the terms set forth a few months ago by the chief executive of the sunshine state.

Leniency—if sentences of life imprisonment in San Quentin are to be regarded as lenient—was allowed by the Los Angeles court because of the plea of guilty on the part of the prisoners, and because there was no evidence that the kidnap victim had been treated with violence or torture. Furthermore, Judge Fricke declared that the prisoners would be allowed to apply for parole in due time, in accordance with the letter of the law. As anti-social as the crime of kidnaping is, civilization demands that the law should take its course, even in the case of men who confess that they are guilty of abduction and attempted extortion.

DALLAS, TEX.
DISPATCH
JUN 24 1934

Stained by a Lynching

TEXAS' record is stained again with a lynching. And guarded stories from Newton, where the lynching took place, indicate that an innocent negro was the victim.

Just how the mob which hanged the colored man feels now about its brave administering of justice we can only surmise. But its members have demonstrated how grave an injustice can be done thru mob action. The mob accepts the first and superficial evidence. There is no judicial weighing of facts. The supremacy of the law is flouted. In most cases officers are thrust aside, frequently injured in their efforts to assure legal trial for their charges.

And always there is the possibility of error as in the Newton case, of tragic, irreparable error.

Lynching brutalizes the lynchers, stirs up hatred and belittles the law and legal justice. But all too rarely do the authorities bring to bar leaders of any lynching mob.

* * *

If Great Britain doesn't find a way out of paying the installments on its debt to the United States pretty soon, the United States will have to find one.

DALLAS, TEX.
TIMES HERALD
JUN 22 1934

ANOTHER LYNCHING IN TEXAS.

TEXAS HAS BEEN DISGRACED by another lynching. Two hundred men at Kirbyville captured and hanged a negro who had been seen in the company of a white girl.

It is such outrages as this that give rise to the demand for a federal anti-lynching law and make it difficult for opponents of such a law to prevent congress from acting.

A drastic bill, providing for punishment of officials for not preventing lynching was pending in congress when the legislative body adjourned. The measure is certain to be re-introduced.

For the federal government to invade local communities to prevent mob action would be, of course, a serious reflection on county and state governmental machinery. It should be prevented if possible.

But if officers remain helpless against mobs, and if the citizenry persists in taking part in lynchings, the demand for congressional action will become irresistible. Persons who presume to take the law into their own hands should be arrested and punished.

DALLAS, TEX.
JOURNAL
JUN 22 1934

Taken From Officers

THE FULL FACTS of the lynching of Son Griggs at Newton, Texas, ~~have doubtless~~ not come to light as these words are being written. Possibly the proof of Son Griggs' guilt of a terrible crime is and was complete and undeniable. But, even if all that be true, The Journal nevertheless says that the name of Texas has been fouled and that of Newton County besmirched by this mob violation of the law and of civilization.

The record stands that the lynched man was taken from armed officers who surrendered him without firing a shot. The record stands that prior to that a large mob gathered about the jail without any injury to the members of the mob. Anybody who can get any comfort or consolation out of that record is welcome to it.

It is a bad record.

WILMINGTON, N. C.
NEWS
JUN 22 1934

LYNCHING NOTE

The Texas mob which Thursday wrote another chapter into the lynching history of the country by dragging a Negro from an automobile loaded with deputies, and summarily executing him.

The Negro's offense was association with a White woman, who was arrested at the same time on charges of vagrancy.

At this distance it appears as a sorry bit of work even for a lynching. If it is the duty of a mob to deal with questions of moral turpitude, it would appear in this case that it made no effort to touch the main offender. White women guilty of the charges against her are hardly worth the trouble of a lynching.

Lynchings-1934
&
Discussions.

White Press, Southern.

4552

NEW ORLEANS, LA.
ITEM

MAR 14 1934

The South On Lynching

THE Women's Missionary Council of the Southern Methodist Episcopal Church meeting in Birmingham, Alabama, votes endorsement of the Costigan-Wagner bill against lynching now pending in the United States Senate.

That is an excellent index to the sweeping character of the revolt which has taken place among humane and responsible elements in the South, against this crime. Twenty years ago the mere quotation of the magic term, "States' Rights," would have been quite enough to exclude a Federal act against lynching from consideration anywhere in the South.

Bills on this subject have been frequently introduced at Washington, but any countenance they received in this part of the country could be called negligible. So many intelligent and sensitive Southerners, however, have been revolted and shamed by the continuance and excesses of mob atrocities that they have become satisfied to accept measures for suppressing them which they would not have considered before. This feeling is strikingly exemplified in the action of these Southern white women whose action in Birmingham represents the feeling of a large group of their sisters.

It looked for a time as though the slow processes of civilization were going to remove the stigma of lynching from the Southern states. National conditions unhappily have brought about a sharp revival of the spirit of lawlessness. This has broken out from one ocean to the other. This extends lawlessness into regions unaccustomed to it and will undoubtedly give the measure now before Congress still stronger impetus. For the crime of lynching has reached the degree which caused a President of the United States for the first time in history to make it the subject of special denunciation in his public address. It happens that this President enjoys at this time a degree of admiration and affection among the people of all parts of the country that exceedingly few of his predecessors ever attained.

A Federal act against lynching may be regarded under these circumstances as having fair chance of passage. We haven' the faintest doubt that it will poll a much heavier vote than any measure on the same subject matter ever had. Nor is there any doubt if the act fails that continuation of atrocities at which it is aimed, will shortly be brought under a Federal ban nonetheless.

HOUSTON, TEX.
POST

MAR 16 1934

A Blow at Lynching

THAT resolution on the lynching evil, adopted by the Women's Missionary council of the Methodist Episcopal church, South, in session at Birmingham, Ala., Wednesday, is indeed significant. Members of this important religious body, comprising outstanding women leaders in the churches in many States of the South, not only went on record in opposition to mob violence, but they specifically indorsed the Costigan-Wagner anti-lynching bill now pending in congress.

The Methodist women, obviously, are not impressed with the arguments against the measure which are based on the contention that it would enable the Federal government to encroach upon the domain of the States. The State's rights plea of opponents of Federal anti-lynching legislation seems to have been ignored by these Southern women. They want lynching suppressed, and apparently, they see no hope of putting an end to the evil except through Federal action.

The action of the women of the Methodist Missionary council is indicative of changing sentiment in the South toward centralization of government. The South, once the stronghold of the doctrine of State's rights, is now almost as ready to surrender the rights and responsibilities of the States to the Federal government as is any other section.

Proponents of the Costigan-Wagner bill will be encouraged by this action of prominent Southern women. A new effort to push the measure through congress is to be expected.

If the Costigan-Wagner bill is enacted, and the Federal government is given jurisdiction over lynching cases, it will constitute one more transfer of power from the States to Washington. The States will have only themselves to blame for this loss of prestige and power, if the measure becomes law. Had they acted vigorously enough in the past to put an end to this relic of barbarism, good people of the Southern States would not now be imploring the Federal government to come in and take charge.

Years ago The Post predicted if the States did not suppress lynching, the Federal authority would attempt to do so. Apparently, that prediction is about to come true.

Wilmington, N. C. News
March 29, 1934

GETTING THE FACTS

Up-State papers are again wondering why the District Solicitor of this bailiwick does not find who "lynched" a Negro in Burgaw last Winter.

Possibly if these fellows would try first hand to ascertain the personnel of the average Southern mob they would understand why the D. A. has made little progress.

Lynching is an abhorrent crime, but still the average citizen declines to give information regarding those who participate.

The reason is simple. Racial hatred usually is the basis for such crimes and in all racial matters there is a spirit of clannishness, seldom denied.

Chester, S. C., Reporter
April 2, 1934

Local Officers and Lynching.

The majority of the citizens of Southern states resent the idea of the federal government's assuming jurisdiction over cases involving lynching. Let the South handle its own affairs ,is the cry. Let local officers look out for these things, let the sheriff, who is responsible, protect his prisoners. Or, if a prisoner be taken from him, let the sheriff who lost his charge, bring members of the mob to justice. Each lynching is a crime of a certain locality. Let that community get behind the local officers and see that the crime is punished. This in accord with the local self-government that the South believes in, a principle of government that we inherited, the Southerner may say, from Anglo-Saxon forefathers.

To see just how the local handling of lynching works, consider the following:

Of the 28 lynchings of 1933, 15 were given special investigation by white men and women under sponsorship of the Association of Southern Women for the Prevention of Lynching. Report from this organization on these 15 is that:

Officers of the law connived at or participated in six.

Probably connived in one.

Refused ot act in one.

Ordered arrests in one.

Attempted indictment in four.

Secured indictments in two.

In the two cases where indictments were secured, one was remanded to the files on account of the cost of prosecution. In the other, four men are out on $1,000 bond each. Up to the time of issuing the report, there had been two terms of court since the lynching, and at neither were the cases called.

Those who approve of federal jurisdiction can say with truth that the local officers are not handling the cases to the interest of justice. Local self-government, they can point out, is one thing as theory. Local self-government that almost habitually allows the murderer to go unpunished is distinctly not what was intended as a practice of that theory.

As has been said over and over again, the question of federal intervention in lynching cases is in the hands of the South. If the South deals seriously and honestly with the lynching evil, both in prevention and in punishment ,the rest of the country will be willing to let the matter rest with the South.—The State.

HOUSTON, TEX.
POST

[illegible] 23 1934

ADVOCATES MOB LAW.

To The Houston Post:

HUNTSVILLE, Texas.—There is one question that our lawmakers don't seem to be able to solve: They are too engrossed in scientific politics they are all great political carpenters great on building political fences. I refer to the mob and lyncher. The reason is, they have ~~not appro~~ached the question from the correct angle.

In the first place, the mob violator is not a criminal. The law should recognize an emergency enforcement and provide for it. Quick action is the only remedy for certain offenses otherwise the law breaks down and can not stand up except by speed.

As I view the remedy for this great and serious disturbance, I make this suggestion: The mob must be recognized as a branch and arm of the law enforcement. When done, we have the solution. It is to provide for a trial by the sovereign power of the people. The mob, if you please to call it, the assembled should elect a judge to preside and govern, be a sworn officer with power to appoint officers, empanel a jury, to direct execution of the judgment of the court so established.

If there is any irregularity in the organization of the court, any one prosecuted therefor, the law should provide a full and perfect defense where a party dies at the hand or hands of a mob is guilty of an offense that the penalty assessed by law is death.

Enact a law that there is to be no secrecy, a report to be made in writing of all participants in the trial, to the district judge of the district, and to be recorded. The law should provide publicity for this court so that all criminals should have notice. The neighbors in any vicinity can assemble immediately, take up any violator of the law, try him without delay, or expense, to execute the judgment of the court. It is the certainty of swift punishment that deters the evil-doers.

The legal profession needs cleaning up. In every county, almost without exception, are disreputable lawyers that should be weeded out. The district judges should be required to do it.

W. O. B GILLASPIE

Tifton. Ga. Gazette
April 17, 1934

In a mid-western city, a white girl was crinmally attacked by a negro. In a short time the jail was stormed and he was lynched. A storm of protest against the lynchers arose. It developed that a few weeks previously the mob victim had attacked a girl and the law did nothing about it, but hushed it up. Last week in Kansas City, Missouri, a bank messenger was shot and killed while delivering securities to the post office. It developed that one of the men charged with the crime had shot a man and killed him a few months before and nothing was done about it. This is the law that we are asked to respect. If the law and officers of the law desire the law to be respected, something must be done to merit respect. The mere fact that it is the law is not going to insure respect on the part of the people. Respect for law must be earned and deserved by the law, the same as it must be earned and deserved by the individual.—Westmoreland (Calif.) Mail.

Spartanburg, S. C., Herald
May 1, 1934

Women's View of Lynching

Many of our friends on the other side of the line may be surprised to read the resolutions adopted by the South Carolina Federation of Women's Clubs which met in Spartanburg last week in which lynching was condemned. The resolution said:

"Believing that the crime of lynching undermines all ideals of government and religion which we hold sacred and which we try to implant into the minds of our youth, and recognizing that all lynching will be defended so long as the public generally accepts the assumption that it is for the protection of white women;

"Therefore we would go on record as endorsing the educational program against lynching of the Southern Association for the Prevention of Lynching and joining a campaign against such violations of law and civilization, and the teachings of religion."

The intellient white women and men of the South long have known that the members of the mob are not intent upon the protection of white women when jails are raided and prisoners are hung or shot or burned. No better description of the work of the mob can be given than that of Judge Gaddy to a grand jury investigating the lynching of a negro at St. Joseph, Mo., last November.

The judge told the jury: "The danger of the mob lies in the letting down of individual responsibility. It wasn't a desire to administer justice or prevent a recurrence of Warner's crime which sent that mob against the jail. It was hate, the same passion that engenders any other murder. When you find the real leaders of that mob you will find men of not much higher moral standards than the man they murdered."

That is a statement of the case of mob law that cannot be denied. No man of high moral standards could join in mob murder. It has never accomplished good, and when its advocates claim that lynching protects women they strike at the courts and our entire system of administering justice in criminal cases.

Ft. Myers Fla., Press
May 17, 1934

BETTER THAN LYNCHING

The dreadful lynching at Santa Ana did not put a stop to kidnaping in California. Now we shall see if equally swift vengeance by the law will do so.

As between the two the law's prompt action should be the more salutary. Lynchings are infrequent and criminals seldom take them into account in weighing consequences. But the law must always be counted on to do something and its local reputation for speed and precision has a great deal to do with criminal plans.

Condoning the lynching, Gov. Rolph said that it would serve notice that "snatchers" could not get away with their racket in California. With memory of the Santa Ana hanging still fresh in memory the Los Angeles gang boldly pulled off the Gettle abduction. Evidently the picture of two stark bodies hanging from a tree had no terrors for them.

They took their chances with the law and what happened to them — not what happened to the Santa Ana murderers— will be the picture before the next kidnapers who sit down to plot a snatching. They won't give mobs a second thought but they certainly will consider the California cops.

And well they may. The Gettle kidnapers were captured not because the police got onto the job but because they were already on the job. They had set a trap for bank robbers and into it the kidnapers walked. That was not quite so much of an accident as it might seem. It is no accident that Los Angeles is efficiently policed to prevent and detect crime. That is by design.

The only lumpy piece of work in the whole business was in allowing the gang leader to escape when the police pounced on the house in which Gettle was hidden. Even that left no solace for criminals. The man who got away was speedily captured. That was no accident, either. It resulted from a vigilant police organization which brought a tip as to the fugitive's whereabouts.

Every item in the case points to the same warning—"You can't get away with it in a well policed town." Too many things can happen which the best laid criminal plans cannot foresee. A town where the room you rent for a rendezvous may be wired for listening in by police headquarters, a town where the fellow sitting next to you at a lunch counter may be a fly-cop with your description, a town where they give you 10 minutes to decide between the gallows and a life term, is no town to be working rackets in.

Greenville, Tenn., Sun
June 26, 1934

INCREDIBLE ATROCITY

The murder of a Negro man at a Negro dance near Manchester, is an incredible outrage against humanity, law and order and elemental manhood. Names of the murderers are not published but whoever they are they belong to a class of pariahs not fit to live, they should pay the law's utmost penalty.

This newspaper does not condone crimes committed by Negroes either against their own race or against white people and believes that murder and rape deserve the death penalty and should receive it. But this particular atrocity forms a new chapter in race relations, if low-class white men believe they can commit such crimes and not receive the utmost condemnation of the better class of white people, they will find themselves mistaken and there should now be such a demonstration of public horror and such an insistent and unanimous demand for justice that punishment for these white men should be as swift and as certain as the punishment demanded for Negroes when they commit murder.

The white man's burden is to do equal and exact justice between all races and kindreds and tribes. To fail in this instance when the crime, so far as the public knows, was without justification and of unmitigated ferocity, is to invite race reaction that both parties will suffer from. It is the stern duty of every white man in this region to insist that justice be done, that punishment to fit the crime be meted out.

Lynchings-1934
&
Discussion-

White Press, Southern.

4553

4553

High Point, N. C. Enterprise
December 23, 1934

SMOKE AND STENCH OVER SHELBYVILLE

The sudden flare of mob violence in Shelbyville, Tennessee, this week, leaving four men dead and a county courthouse in ashes, reminds the reader that unspeakable bestiality is always just below the surface in this country, and that an outbreak of similar nature may conceivably occur almost anywhere at any time.

Perhaps such conduct is explicable only by referring it to the jungle-dwelling antecedents of modern man. It doubtless has some connection also with the frontier life which until very recently was part of the warp and woof of America—a mode of life in which the six-shooter and the rope represented the law, judge, jury, and executioner.

More likely, however, this sort of barbarity is due to a survival of ignorance. It could be entirely prevented by the use of proper educational precaution—as indeed the steady decrease of the lynching toll to one-tenth its former proportions would indicate. In 1892 a record number of 225 lynchings took place in this country, while over the last several years an average of about 15 per year has been recorded.

Lynching has come increasingly to be a Southern phenomenon, associated with the race problem. It has not always been so. Its limitation at present to the South should arouse citizens of this area to their peculiar problems in this respect.

Lynchings are not provoked solely by attacks upon white women, contrary to the popular notion to that effect. Indeed, less than one-fourth of the persons lynched since 1890 were accused of that particular crime.

When precautions have failed, however, and mob violence is rampant, certainly society has the right to fight to the finish for the protection of her regularly-constituted institutions of justice. A mob is an organization beyond control; it is a fit symbol of anarchy. It would burn not only a courthouse, but every shred of liberty and justice as well.

Chester, S. C. Reporter
December 24, 1934

Shelbyville, Tenn., was the scene of a very distressing and unfortunate outbreak of mob violence last week. The occurrence was precipitated when the judge who was presiding at the trial of a negro charged with criminal assault halted proceedings, and ordered a mistrial. The prisoner was spirited away immediately, but a mob assembled, and before being finally dispersed drew the fire of the National Guard and deputies, two of the mob being slain and two others fatally wounded, in addition to a number of others being injured. And to cap the climax the handsome county court house, valued at $150,000, was set on fire and burned to the ground. The property loss is probably covered to a large extent by insurance, but the lives that were lost, and the spirit of lawlessness that has been aroused are a different matter entirely. The episode is one that will leave its scars for generations to come, and is only too unfortunate an illustration of what the spirit of lawlessness will do, if not checked.

Post
12-24-34
Birmingham Ala

Courageous Officials

Sheriff Gant did his duty when he tried to calm the mob at Shelbyville, Tenn.

Judge Coleman did his duty by declaring a mistrial in the case of E. K. Harris, the Negro, when the mob surrounded the courthouse. The mob set fire to the courthouse.

The Tennessee National Guard did its duty, training its guns upon the charging mob and carrying the prisoner away to safety. The mob overturned and burned the guard's motor trucks.

Shelbyville police did their duty, risking their lives to save the city hall from the torch.

The firemen did their duty, fighting the courthouse flames. The mob cut the fire hose.

Governor McAlister did his duty by sending more troops to restore law and order in Shelbyville.

It now remains for Shelbyville prosecutors to punish the vandals and round out a perfect score of official courage in Tennessee—in this one case.

Back of and largely responsible for the bloody Wednesday in Shelbyville were three successful lynchings in Tennessee in the last 18 months. Two white men and one Negro were the victims and the latter was lynched in Bedford County, of which Shelbyville is the county seat. He was lynched after a grand jury had refused to indict him. In those three lynchings, Tennessee officers did not do their duty, and because they failed mob spirit spread in the state.

But on Wednesday, Tennessee authorities demonstrated how a mob should be handled. A few more such salutary performances by local authorities might end cowardly lynchings in this country.

ROME, GA.
NEWS-TRIBUNE
DEC 27 193

"RED" ACTIVITIES IN SOUTH

THE recent rioting at Shelbyville, Tenn., which resulted in death and injury and the destruction of the courthouse by fire, is said to have been instigated largely by communistic elements, and in view of the activities of this class in other communities, the theory is easy of acceptance.

There is not the slightest doubt about the "Reds" being most active in the South. They have capitalized the Scottsboro case to the limit, using it to direct attention to this section and as a means of raising money with which to carry on propaganda and to bring their agents of violence into this section.

They have been responsible for many acts of violence during the past two years, not only in Alabama, but in practically all the states of the South, their activities resulting in death, injury and the loss of much property.

These developments lend force to the recent suggestion of a Washington publication that the fight against the "Reds" is up to the South, not only because of the activities of this element in this quarter but because of the powerful influences of the South in national affairs. The South, and its representatives, should recognize the nature of this peril and give much more attention to the subject than has been given in the past.

Recognized as the most American portion of the United States, the South should array itself solidly against these lawless elements and join stridently in the demand upon congress for adequate means of ridding the country of those known to be here in violation of the law—and there are thousands listed under this head.

MIAMI, FLA.
HERALD

DEC 23 1934

DEATH IN RIOT

SEVERAL persons are dead and others injured as a result of the mob attack upon the courthouse in Shelbyville, Tenn. The maddened crowd sought to take and lynch a negro on trial for an assault. National guardsmen were there to maintain law and performed their duty, unlike some sheriffs and officials in other cases. The soldiers used gas, bayonets and finally guns to protect the prisoner. In the fighting some of the rioters or bystanders suffered grieviously, paying with their lives for a futile and foolish effort.

The accused was on trial. If guilty and convicted he was certain to be executed legally. If innocent there was certainly no reason for punishing him. But the crowd was not interested in guilt or innocence. It wanted blood, it sought to butcher the negro and celebrate the event. Instead, members of the mob were slain and the alleged assaulter was hurried away in disguise.

Failing to get its prey, the mob later turned to seeking revenge and presumably set fire to the courthouse. At least it was burned and the firemen were delayed by the rioters in fighting the flames. The building had committed no crime. Its loss will have to be paid for by the citizens of the county, and they are not at fault because of the assault or prevention of the lynching.

This result displays the nature of a mob, its lack of sense; its determination to slay and destroy something, no matter what. It is crowd insanity. It is to the credit of Tennessee, the troops and the governor, that the lynching was averted, even at the frightful cost of dead mobsters.

EUFAULA, ALA.
TRIBUNE
DEC 21 1934

A Thwarted Lynching

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A GRAND SCHEME.

Greensboro
N. C.
News
12/24/34

As an effective cover-up, the proposal made in the wake of Shelbyville's outburst of mobbery offers possibilities which certainly have not obtained in ordinary outbreaks; as if clashes between troops and mobsters which brought death to four and injuries to a score of others and burning of a $150,000 courthouse could in any sense be termed ordinary.

But to the proposal and the technique, even though it may not be needed, which it ingeniously provides. In the wake of the violence, while the courthouse ruins still smouldered, additional troops patrolled the section to ward off threatened race rioting, and efforts were made to find office space for authorities to whose quarters the firebrand had been applied, Shelbyville citizens, in mass meeting assembled, proposed organization of a vigilante committee which would aid in maintaining order and preserve the peace after the national guardsmen departed.

In the meantime no official investigation—and you know how these investigations generally terminate anyway—has as yet been started. Authorities, with their offices and their courthouse burned out from under them, are obviously operating under a decided handicap. Their announced excuse, however, is the excitement and confusion, the high feeling, which still prevail. Civil inquiries will be launched "as soon as things quiet down a bit."

And here, if one may be so bold as to guess, is where the vigilantes come in. The willingness of citizens, some of whom are without doubt sincere and to be commended for their assumption of civic responsibility, to take a hand after the damage has been done gives way to the question of where they were as the mob formed, charged back and forth, burned a temple of justice with the subsequent raising of somebody's taxrate, which, after all may be one of the minor considerations, and then dissipated, as mobs have a way of doing, into thin air? The mobsters were citizens themselves, weren't they? What's to prevent them becoming vigilantes and thus be intrusted with ferreting out and protecting themselves? The transformation from a mobster to a vigilante may not be difficult in the least.

It's a grand scheme Shelbyville citizens have; but mighty few real friends of law and order would have it on a Christmas tree.

Lynchings-1934
6
Discussions

White Press, Southern.

4554

Oklahoma City, Okla.
OKLAHOMAN

JUL 1 1934

Education Is Credited With Decrease in U. S. Lynchings

Negro Investigator Reports Clean Bills While Congress Was in Session.

The decrease in lynchings in the last 25 years has been due to a great extent to agitation and educational work carried on by the Association for Advancement of Colored People, believes Walter White, Negro, secretary.

When the association was formed in 1909, there were 100 lynchings a year. Today the number is in the neighborhood of ten each year, he pointed out.

White has investigated 41 lynchings and eight race riots in his 16 years of inter-racial work, and has written several books on lynching. His novel on lynching, "Fire in the Flint," has been translated into four foreign languages.

Investigation of lynchings is comparatively easy, White says. Most of them occur in sparsely populated areas where people have little contact with the outside world and will "open up" with their dogmatic views, he added.

Most race riots occur in thickly populated areas.

Lynching started in the Revolutionary war period when John Lynch, a Virginia Quaker, objected to a few of the Tories.

Most of those lynched in the south prior to the Civil war were whites, since it wasn't good economic sense to kill a Negro who was worth cash money, White explained.

But since then the Negro has gotten more attention in lynching activities. "Many of the sex charges in Negro lynchings are trumped up because it is the best thing for arousing hatred enough to make a big, healthy mob," White believes.

It is significant to note that while the Costigan-Wagner anti-lynching bill was pending in congress there were no lynchings. But there have been six in June, White says.

Due principally to the attitude expressed by the Mississippi judge who said, "If you lynch this man you will assure the passage of the bill in congress that will take from the south its most prized tradition," believes White.

White first became interested in inter-racial work in the fight Atlanta Negroes made for better educational facilities in 1918. After the Negro vote had defeated three bond issues for more white highschools, city officials were forced to start the program that has resulted in one of the finest Negro educational systems in the country, White said.

Baton Rouge, La., Advocate
July 11, 1934

NOTHING SO DISGRACEFUL AS LYNCHING

There is nothing in the world so disgraceful to a community as a lynching party which takes the law into its hands, walks into a jail cell, and takes a man out for hanging without giving him the benefit of trial.

Regardless of how low we are in the system of things, and regardless of the nature of our offense against society, each of us is entitled to a trial by a jury in the legal manner that we, ourselves, have provided.

There is necessity for law and order in a community. For the sake of those who obey the law, there must be enforcement of laws which keep other persons from taking those things which we value—our lives, our possessions, our liberty, and our happiness.

It is readily admitted that some crimes are worse than others. And very, very frequently we hear the statement: "Hanging's too good for him!" Maybe it is, but it is the way that we have provided to deal with the man who takes the life of another, and it is dangerous and very terrible business when a group of citizens takes the law into their hands and hangs a man.

The hanging of criminals, this lynching party, is not confined to the South by any manner of means. Stories come from all parts of the United States, perfectly terrible stories of such deeds. Society frowns on them. Baton Rougeans, reading the accounts, are struck by the terrible crime of killing a man without trial. That is not civilization.

SUFFOLK, VA.
NEWS HERALD

JUN 21 1934

ONE WAY TO STOP THE MOB

A group of Mississippi women, whose feelings were outraged by a gruesome lynching in their state recently, wrote to their governor suggesting the enactment of a law that would automatically retire from office any sheriff or other peace officer who permitted a prisoner to be taken from him by force for the purpose of killing him. It is recalled that two Negroes were taken from a posse of county officers and strung up to a bridge without the representatives of the law raising a hand. It was this incident that inspired the letter.

In their letter to the governor the Mississippi women protested against the action of the district attorney who "reported the case closed two hours after the bodies were cut down." They demanded that the investigation of the affair be reopened and an honest effort made to bring the mobbers to justice. It is quite evident that these protestants believe that there was collusion between the mob and the officers and that the district attorney condones the lawless act.

We believe that these women reflect the sentiment of every decent, God-fearing, law-abiding citizen of Mississippi whose fair name has too often been smeared with similar episodes. Lynching bees, all too common in the deep south, not only are never justifiable but are highly demoralizing socially. The spectacle of American white men, with generations of civilization behind them, turning back to the law of the jungle is discouraging and disheartening. Mobbers are cowards and one upstanding, determined officer with a good trigger finger can defy a hundred of such people.

It is seldom that leaders or members of these lawless gangs are apprehended or brought to trial, but when they are brought before the bar of justice rarely convicted. One reason is that those who know them take their lives into their own hands when they testify against them. There have been other instances, however, where members of the mob are known without those responsible raising a hand to prosecute them or vindicate the honor of the state and community. It is a wicked spirit and ill fares the land wherein it stalks.

Columbia, S. C. Record
July 11, 1934

One More Bit of Evidence.

At Bastrop, La., Andrew McLeod, a 26-year-old negro was lynched Monday night. It was a typical lynching, except for the fact that the victim was accused of attempting to attack a white girl—the crime which is used to excuse lynching, but seldom is the excuse for it.

It was like all lynchings a degrading and brutal affair. The first rope, tied about the negro's neck before he was pushed off the top of an automobile, broke. The mob's victim fell to the ground and some unidentified hero among the 300 who composed the band of lynchers ran up and slashed the negro's throat as if he had been a hog in pig-sticking time. The lynchers, securing a new and stronger rope, carried out their original intention none the less. McLeod was hanged. Then the crowd dispersed.

It was like all lynchings a useless thing. McLeod had been arrested and, according to officers, had confessed his crime. Any Louisiana jury would have convicted him. He would have been punished as the law provides and without delay. In Louisiana as in courts of other states delays are possible, but no negro, accused of attempted assault, would have benefitted from them.

The lynchers as usual met almost no opposition from the officers of the law charged with protecting the negro prisoner. Witnesses reported that the mob "formed quietly" and grew to such proportions that officers were "unable" to prevent the assault upon the jail and the negro's slaying. The chief of police was out of town for the night and Bastrop, it seems, boasts no night marshal at the jail. There were however, the sheriff and his deputies, who if they did not prevent the lynching did at least aid citizens in cutting down the negro's body. Lynchings in other towns and states have been prevented, but to prevent mob violence peace officers must be prepared to call for the militia and if need be to shoot. In Bastrop there was no shooting.

Nothing will be done about it as usual. "Authorities" of course are "investigating" the lynching. All lynchings are "investigated" but few of the investigations get anywhere.

And no good will come of it. Law enforcement isn't promoted by murder even though 300 men participate in it.

It merely supplies the proponents of a federal anti-lynching law with one more argument, one more bit of testimony.

Nashville, Tenn. Tennessean—[illegible]
June 26, 1934

Coffee County's Lynching.

The unusual feature about Coffee County's lynching case is that it has been followed by quick arrests. The group which abducted a negro who ad previously had trouble with a white man at a aturday night negro church festival, made the misake of taking along a boy of fourteen years, who became thoroughly frightened when approached by officers, and "gave it all away."

An expedition of this kind was no place for such a youth, and it is not surprising that, regardless of how determined he may have been to adhere to the usual code of silence, he was unable to keep the gruesome details secret. His story has brought eight men to the bar of justice on charges of murder, and though it is difficult to say how local sentiment will affect the ultimate verdict, Sheriff Huffman and his deputies have at least demonstrated that they are evading no responsibility.

The best citizenship of Coffee County will not be proud of this calculated and brutal crime, and the state regrets to see another black mark placed against it on the score of lynching.

Rocky Mount, N. C., Telegram
July 30, 1934

Mississippi Relents

When four people are brought to trial in Mississippi on Wednesday, light will be shed upon the willingness of a community to punish offenders against peace. An aged Negro, accused of having talked "with disrespect" to a white man, was forced to accompany four men into a patch of woods where he was severely beaten. After the beating he was abandoned and before he could he rescued by officers and removed to a hospital for treatment, the Negro died. Four men were arrested, jailed without the privilege of bail, and will be given a hearing on Wednesday. News dispatches from the community point out that people who 'knew' the Negro are aroused and are determined upon demanding justice in this case. The outcome is awaited with interest.

This newspaper is opposed to the lamentable practice of trying cases in news columns in advance of court action. But on the basis of information coming from Mississippi, there is every reason why this case should be gone into thoroughly and why the agencies of law and order should not relent in their determination to punish offenders, if they are found guilty.

A Negro youth, charged with a brutal murder in Nash county, was placed in safe keeping in State's prison recently because of reports of public anger at the crime. Whether there was any basis for the fear on the part of the sheriff and his deputies that an attempt would be made to take the Negro from them is a point for dispute. Citizens in the community in which this crime was committed deny that the Negro was endangered; a Nash county officer reported that he was knocked down. The important fact is that the Negro is held safely in confinement until such a time as he can be brought into the courtroom to answer for an offense. If he is guilty there is no doubt but that full punishment will be accorded.

Had four Negroes beaten a white man to death in Mississippi, we know what would have happened. If Mississippi would remain consistent, the least the state can do is to determine the guilt in this case and then act in accordance with that offense.

GREENVILLE, TEX.
HERALD

AUG 5 19[illegible]

A PUZZLER FOR THEM

Organizations having for their purpose the stopping of lynch law have been operaing for years. They have been operated largely in behalf of the negroes, chief victims of mob rule, and are largely financed in the North and East. They are justified in their work, since there is no earthly excuse for the rule of the mob.

But they have a puzzler for them now. Negroes near Shreveport lynched a member of their own race because he was a "bully" who was always fomenting trouble among them. He doesn't seem to have been charged with any particular crime, but has been a constant source of trouble to the negroes in the community where he resided.

It is one of the most unusual lynchings recorded. Usually the victim of a lynching has been guilty presumably of some major crime ,even if oftentimes the wrong man is lynched. This time there was no such justification. The negro was just a pest, and his brethren decided to get rid of him. They did.

BRISTOL, VA.
HERALD COURIER

JUL 31 1934

The Impartial Mob.

There is no excuse for mob lawlessness in a land of law. There is no defense for it. Even the delays and uncertainties of the law itself can not be successfully advanced in extenuation of the crimes committed by the mob. But the impartiality of the latter-day lynching mob must be admitted. It is no respecter of race or color or sex.

Originally the lynching mob presumed to punish or avenge only crimes committed by Negro men against white women. It posed as the protector of womanhood. But it gradually extended its usurpation of authority and in recent years has dealt with all sorts of offenders or alleged offenders. It has visited death upon Negro men and white men, upon Negro women and white women, many of whom were guilty of nothing more serious than a misdemeanor and some of whom were innocent of any wrongdoing.

Formerly a large part of the public was disposed to condone the lynching of Negro rapists. It is possible that this attitude of that part of the public encouraged the mob to broaden its operations and expand its activities. Be that as it may, the public as a whole has come to recognize mob lawlessness as a menace to society and to demand its suppression. This is well, for unless there is strong and determined opposition to that sinister species of lawlessness both on the part of the public and of constituted authority, the rule of the law would eventually give way to the rule of the mob.

But the main purpose of this article is to call the attention of Northern friends and critics to the fact that here in the South four white men who are charged with having beaten a Negro man to death were hurried to a place of safety after their arrest because feeling among the white people of the community ran so high against them that violence was feared. This happened last Saturday at Pelahatchie, Mississippi. It was deemed wise to postpone a preliminary hearing of the accused men for a few days, and in the meantime they are held in jail without bond.

That a mob of white men might have lynched other white men accused of killing a Negro does not alter the fact that mob murder is not to be tolerated. But the incident should contain some food for thought above the Mason and Dixon Line

Lynchings - 1934
Discussions.

White Press, (Southern.)

4555

METHODIST EDITOR EXCORIATES LYNCHING

Constitution

Dr. King Flays "White Hoodlums" in Vigorous Editorial in Christian Advocate.

1-12-34

NASHVILLE, Tenn., Jan. 11.—(AP) In a fiery denunciation of lynching, Dr. W. P. King, editor of the Christian Advocate, official organ of the Methodist Episcopal church, south, says in an editorial published today that lynchers "are as depraved and conscienceless as the guiltiest victims whom they shoot or burn."

Lashing out against "white hoodlums" who he said were responsible for lynchings, Dr. King declared that if this element is not "checked and dominated by the better element of society it will mean the destruction of our civilization."

He asserted that "lynchers not only lynch a human being; they lynch the law itself, which is the safeguard of all human beings."

Comparing kidnaping and lynching, he wrote:

"Kidnaping is mainly an offense against the rich; lynching is an offense against the defenseless. Kidnaping is primarily the effort to obtain money; lynching is the lawless destruction of human life. Any local community in the south would see that justice is meted out to the kidnapers. It has been impossible to get a local community in the south to see that the lynchers obtain justice."

Listing 28 lynchings in 1933 compared with eight in 1932, 13 in 1931 and 21 in 1930, the editor said "the good citizens feel a sense of shame over the black record of 1933," and added:

"The citizens who would scorn to join a mob, and yet who excuse and extenuate the guilt, are the enemies of law and order. The 'good citizens,' according to Governor Rolph, of California, consist of the denizens of low dives and speakeasies. If the better element of our population do not arouse themselves aggressively against lynching, they need not complain that their fetish of state's rights is being taken from them and it is made a federal offense."

The writer declared that "preachers who condone or apologize for lynchings turn the pulpit into a coward's castle and are unworthy of their calling; they should surrender their credentials and take their place among the renegades of society."

Lynchers and Apologists Flayed by Church Paper

Telegraph 1-12-34

Dr. W. P. King, Editor of Christian Advocate, Rates Mob Slayers as "Depraved and Conscienceless as Guiltiest Victim They Shoot or Burn

NASHVILLE, Tenn., Jan. 11 (AP)—In a fiery denunciation of lynching Dr. W. P. King, editor of The Christian Advocate, official organ of the Methodist Episcopal church, South, says in an editorial published today that lynchers "are as depraved and conscienceless as the guiltiest victims whom they shoot or burn."

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Mob Defenders Denounced

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CHARLESTON, W. VA.
GAZETTE

JAN 3 1934

Other Editors

Echo From Greenbrier

Something entirely new in the history of the world has happened down in Greenbrier county. It will be recalled that about two years ago two Negroes named Banks and Jackson were lynched by a mob for the alleged murder of a constable named Myles.

A state law permits relatives of a lynched man to file damage suit for $5,000 against the county in which the lynching occurred. Suits were filed in this case and judgment for damages was obtained.

Now the family of the slain constable in turn has filed suit for damages against the estate of the two lynched men. Should these suits succeed it is apparent that the family of the slain constable would come in possession of the damage money rather than the heirs of the lynched Negroes.

The case is an interesting one, indeed.—Parkersburg Sentinel.

Pulaski, Tenn., Citizen
January 3, 1934

Avert Lynching

In an interesting communication to the Herald-Tribune, Gen. William C. Rivers, writes in part as follows:

I have read with interest the recent powerful editorials in the Herald-Tribune and in many papers about lynching. Most of them were clear and logical, but I fear they will not have great effect. This is because the editorials I have seen are largely negative, denunciatory and condemnatory, and fail to suggest any positive measures for minimizing and eliminating the evil—except that here and there a Federal anti-lynch law was recommended. That would be, I am convinced, a fatal mistake. My feeling is that the individuals in my county did not enjoy lynching as a spectacle and did not desire lynching, although no court proceedings followed the affairs.

Some fundamental and positive measures should be carried out to prvoide an alternative for mob frenzy and—this is important—to convince the country people that there are effective ways of quick legal action. In this time of great united undertakings, aided by large sums of money subscribed by the people or allotted by great foundations or by groups of noble men and women, would it be impracticable to carry out a clearly thought out campaign to modify state criminal laws for the trial of persons accused of the principal crimes for which people are now so frequently executed without hearing or trial?

Difficult, of course, and it doubtless would involve changing the constitutions of states and of the United States. But would it be as difficult and as costly, for example, as the campaign for prohibition or the campaign against prohibition? Of course, the direct appeals—through schoolbooks, Sunday Schools, Churches, the bar and the press—should be written and carried out, as a rule, by men and women of the states where lynchings are most frequent. There is no doubt that there are such men and women willing to undertake the task.

William C. Rivers,
Major General, U. S. A. (retired)
New York, Dec. 16, 1933.

Knoxville, Tenn., News-Sentinel
January 11, 1934

CLAIMS PUBLIC APATHY BREEDS LYNCHING LAW

Vanderbilt Scholar Claims Individuals Block Justice In Mob Rule.

By Associated Press

NASHVILLE, Jan. 11—Prof. Alva W. Taylor of Vanderbilt University said in an address to the Tennessee Inter-Racial Commission today that "lynch law is made possible by the failure of public opinion."

He added that "the lynch problem is tied up with the race problem, and until the white conscience is willing to accord the colored man the same rights before the law, in full and equal justice, public opinion will continue to accept mob law after the crime is committed."

Professor Taylor's address was preceded by a report of James D. Burton, executive secretary of the commission, on "Race Relations in Tennessee in 1933." "We are sorry," Mr. Burton said, "to have to record three lynchings in Tennessee in 1933; two were white and one colored. The state is greatly humiliated as a result of these lynchings."

'Public Opinion Fails'

He called for efforts "to improve public sentiment" and said, "We must reach the mass mind out of which grow the most acute and difficult problems of interracial friction and injustice."

Professor Taylor cited statistics to show "the failure of public opinion."

"The good citizen is never a member of a mob," he said, "but when the lawless neighbors organize a mob and lynch their victim the good citizens of the community do not furnish ample public opinion to make the law against mob action effective.

"Out of nearly 3000 lynchings in this country since records have been kept, convictions are recorded in only 12 instances, involving a total of 67 mobsters. Yet in most cases a number of people know who they were.

"Case after case can be cited where the law officers tried to convict lynchers after the mob operated in clear daylight and without masks and many observers saw them plainly, but every witness perjured himself by swearing he could not recognize any member of the mob.

Change Attitude

"It is the regular habit of the better citizen to oppose mob action on principle until after the event in his own community. He then apologizes for the action, counsels that the least said the better, or denounces anyone, whether in press or pulpit, who boldly denounces the crime.

"Three-fourths of the victims of the mob are colored. That fact enters largely into the influences that determine the attitude of the good citizen; he justifies mob action because of racial prejudice.

"Yet the negro was convicted three times as often, taking South Carolina as an example, after he was accused of homicide as was the white man accused, and his sentences run on the average more than twice as long."

Dr. Floyd W. Reeves, TVA director of personnel, discussed "The Tennessee Valley Authority and Its Employment Program" in a closed session of the commission.

Cummings Links Shysters With Lynchings

By Associated Press

WASHINGTON, Jan. 11—Calling for "a renaissance of law and orderly government," Attorney General Cummings last night criticized those who condone lynching, assailed shyster lawyers and pledged the efforts of the Justice Department in tracking down kidnapers and keeping liquor out of dry states.

Referring to lynchings, he said in a speech:

"It is unthinkable that anyone in possession of his faculties, who grasps the significance of our heritage of liberty should condone mob violence; and inconceivable that anyone familiar with the long struggle for the establishment of equality before the law, and the right of trial by jury could speak without loathing of the inexcusable crime of lynching. To break down our law is to betray the government and to make the tasks of our law enforcing agencies far more difficult."

Chattanooga, Tenn. News
January 15, 1934

The Word "Lynching"

ALL of the brave offers of rewards and the ringing statements of judges from their benches in condemnation of the recent lynching near Columbia will come to naught, says the Murfreesboro *News-Journal.* Perhaps so. But it is an advancement to have the indignation shown in high places. It may be that it will seep down to the low places in officialdom.

In regard to lynchings, someone has suggested that the word be changed from "lynch law" to "rolph law" in honor of the California governor. The Houston *Post* points out that there are two stories concerning the origin of the word "lynching." One is to the effect that "lynch" when used in connection with a killing goes back to Charles Lynch, of Virginia, whose actions against the Tories of Bedford County were called "lynch law."

Another statement concerning the derivation of the term "lynching" is offered by Jacob Lempit of New York, who traces its use back to Galway, Ireland. It seems in 1493 there was a mayor of the town of Galway, on the west coast of the Emerald Isle, named James Lynch Fitzstephen, who hanged his own son from the window of his house because the son was guilty of some minor infraction of the law. Says Mr. Lempit:

"For sheer grimness the case of James Lynch Fitzstephen will always stand out as the supreme example of implacable parental justice, for it is recorded he hanged his own son from the window of his home, which stands today as Lynch's castle, and from which incident has come down to us 'lynch law,' one of the darkest blots in our national escutcheon."

Chattanooga, Tenn. News
Janaury 2, 1934

Burton Scores Mob Violences

Says Public Opinion Should Halt Lynchings.

Oakdale, Jan. 2.—(Special.)—"No community is safe from mob violence and constant cultivation of public opinion is necessary in order to outlaw this evil," declared James D. Burtion, executive secretary of the Tennessee Interracial Commission,' in a satement regarding lynching issued in connection with the antilynching meeting held in Nashville recently.

His complete statement follows:

"We repeat the pronouncement of more than 300 Tennesseans, assembled in the State Capitol, in Nashville, in 1920, that lynching is unjustifiable under any and all circumstances, and that, whatever may be the provocation, lynching is the surrender of all that is dear to civilization. Every act of mob violence is not so much the punishment of the criminal as it is the lynching of the law. No extenuation as to the seriousness of the crime that causes such outbreaks or the frequent defeat of justice in the courts should be urged in favor of any mob that takes the law in its own hands.

"No community is safe from mob violence, and constant cultivation of public opinion is necessary in order to outlaw this evil. The developing of the right kind of public opinion will do more to eradicate lynching than all the forces of the law.. Loyal and faithful officers of the law need moral support of the public, which, if given freely, will make it easier for them to restrain mobs. An antilynching bill was introduced in the Tennessee Legislature two years ago which had, among other things, a provision to bring moral support to faithful sheriffs and to help curb lynchings. It was sponsored by leaders from Bristol to Memphis. On account of the debate on the finances of the State, it was not finally disposed of.

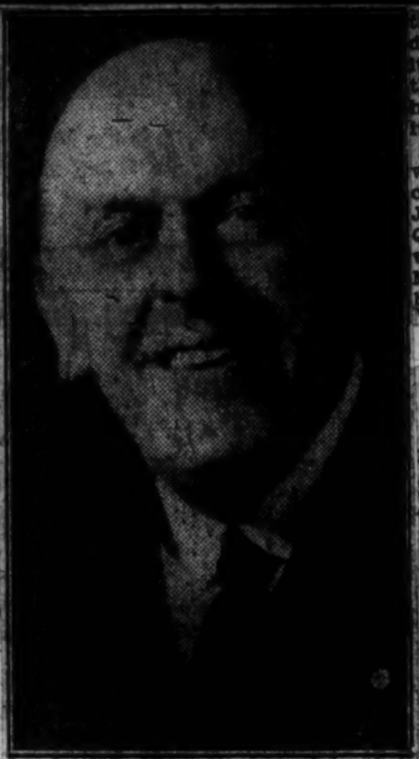
"The Government of this nation and of Tennessee is not circumscribed to the executive offices in Washington and Nashville, but functions through constituted authority in every county hamlet in our land. It is in the local community where permanent improvement in race relations must be made. To this end it is hoped that leading citizens will give strong and active support in every effort in behalf of law and order. It is no time to be indifferent."

Nashville, Tenn. Banner
January 12, 1934

English Rotarian Posted on America

Dr. Herbert Schofield Wonders at Lynchings, Fundamentalism, Law Procedures

While Englishmen may not understand a lot of things about his American cousins, especially the Southern portion of them, he keeps well posted on the affairs of their country and finds much to interest and to wonder about in their doings—judging by Dr. Herbert Schofield, distinguished English scientist and engineer, who is in Nashville as the guest of Will Manier, Jr.



DR. HERBERT SCHOFIELD

before going to Chicago to attend the board meeting of Rotary International of which he is a vice-president.

Lynchings, fundamentalism, lengthy legal procedures, and Nashville weather are four of the American products at which Dr. Schofield wonders. The NRA and President Roosevelt come under the head of products intensely interesting and of much concern to England. He is interested in the Tennessee Valley project and asked about Scottsboro, proving again the idea that Englishmen can come to America and discuss American problems with us, while most Americans are just "tourists" in England.

Dr. Schofield admits that England is a "little skeptical" about the ultimate oucome of the NRA, but declares that nowhere has there been a word raised against it and that the country looks upon it as the only venture made against depression.

"We are very much concerned about the outcome. It is a socialistic venture, but more than just that. It is a species of state socialism under democratic recognition. In Russia and in Germany the pressure has come from the top. In America the people are won to the movement. It is another democratic movement. We have always been interested in your democracy," he said.

He said that there was much talk in England about the recognition of Russia by this country and that the English wondered if it meant that we would be engulfed by the Russian type of communism or if it was just another American move in which the object was the sale of automobiles.

"How you with the American mentality can be fundamentalists we do not know and we always wonder. England was really stirred by your venture into the courts with the matter," he said, declaring that America the scientific nation and Americans the fundamentalists were hard to understand.

Dr. Schofield is head of the famed Loughborough College, which is run similar to the Antioch College plan in that its students study part of the time and work some of the time, but different in that while Antioch sends its students into industries to study them and work in them, Loughborough has its own engineering plant which it runs as a distinctly industrial unit.

During the afternoon Dr. Schofield visited the Hermitage, although he declared he knew no more about Andrew Jackson that Americans knew about Queen Elizabeth. He and Mr. Manier will leave tonight for Chicago, where Mr. Manier also will attend the Rotary board meetings.

Manchester, Tenn. Times
June 28, 1934

"LYNCHING"

Citizens of the Prairie Plains community are somewhat resentful over references made in the daily press to the tragedy of Sunday morning as a "lynching." The killing of Dick Wilkerson should not be classified as a lynching. The band responsible for his death were not representative of the citizenship of the community. Within a few hours after his death, eight men had been arrested, and are now held in jail without bond. Whether they are guilty or innocent of the charge, is a question for the courts to decide; but it is the practically unanimous hope of the Prairie Plains community, as well as the other districts of the county, that the persons guilty of this vicious crime be made to pay the penalty.

There is no mad mob spirit in Coffee county.

Sheriff Huffman and officers working in co-operation with him are to be commended for the promptness with which the eight men charged with the murder of Dick Wilkerson were arrested and brought to trial.

Lynchings—1934
6
Discussions.

White Press, Southern.

4556

THE NEWS' HONOR EDITORIAL

(Editor's Note: The following is the editorial, "Why We Still Have Lynchings in the South," for which the Pulitzer committee awarded first honorable mention for the Pulitzer editorial prize to Osburn Zuber, associate editor of The News. It was published on Sept. 13, 1933, and is reprinted in response to a number of requests.)

5-11-34

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Instead, we find a coddling commiseration for the black beast that despoils white womanhood; a rejoicing when safety for him is found behind prison bars, and bitter denunciation for white men who would put a stop to such crimes by removing the cause—promptly putting to death the vile black beast that, alone of all races, is prone to commit such outrages against white women. This particular crime is without provocation that may attend uncontrollable anger, and is inexcusable in the sight of God! Borrow a Bible and find out what God Almighty says about dealing with this particular crime, when committed by one of the woman's own race—how much more severely He would condemn the black beast who violates a white woman! Turn to the twenty-second chapter of Deuteronomy, and read that God decrees the rapist shall be "stoned to death by the people" (not the elders or judges, corresponding to our courts of law)—"the mob," as the mulatto-minded press of Alabama so scathingly describes those avengers, acting under the will of God, to rid the land of the vilest form of pollution possible to imagine!

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When the skulking Indian savage slew white women and children, their men-folks wrought sure and terrible punishment—approved by history. Why should not similar action prevail against the skulking savage Negro beast who imposes worse-than-death upon innocent, defenseless white women? When the law restrains these black beasts from roving at will and lying in wait to despoil white women, then it will be time for this law to demand respect from white men. Until the law proves able to protect our white women against attacks from the black beast, it is certain that such cases will continue to be handled in the God-ordained court of Judge Lynch—interracial organizations and a mulatto-minded press to the contrary notwithstanding.
DEMPS A. ODEN.

Childersburg, Ala.
(Copy to Gov. Miller.)

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Men like Mr. Oden would hardly be found participating in a lynching mob themselves. But the knowledge that such men approve of this brutal and hideous practice spurs the actual lynchers on, and at the same time inevitably lessens the effectiveness of law in the effort to prevent this crime or to bring the guilty ones to justice after a lynching has been committed; for public opinion must stand solidly behind a law if it is to be observed and enforced.

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Mr. Oden defends the **right** to lynch. That is an astounding thing. Yet it is because some men hold that it is **right** to lynch, even though they would not stoop to it themselves, that others, more ignorant and more bestial, believing them, go forth and kill.

What **right** has any group of men to lynch any man, in a civilized society governed by laws? Most people will readily deny that there is any **right** to lynch, and will require no proof. But let us examine the question from several standpoints.

If lynching were **right**, could we not expect, on a question so simple and clear-cut, to find a majority public opinion supporting that view? Yet all the evidence will show that the majority opinion holds that lynching is wrong. For example, in all the states, legislatures representative of the popular will have enacted laws proclaiming lynching a crime and providing for its punishment. Grand juries, likewise representative of the public, act whenever they can to bring lynchers to justice, and strongly condemn the practice in any case. No legislature or no grand jury could be found a majority of whose members would uphold lynching. Again, the press, reflecting public opinion, is practically a unit in denouncing lynchings, wherever they occur. There can be no doubt that the majority public opinion everywhere in this country opposes lynching; it is only a small minority opinion that upholds it, and a still smaller minority that practices it.

What **right** has any mob to take the law into its own hands, and act as prosecutor, jury, judge and executioner all in one? There could be no impartial fairness in such a proceeding, and what is unfair cannot be right. We have laws and courts to administer justice. There is no necessity for so-called mob "law."

Mr. Oden says the "court of Judge Lynch" is "God-ordained." He quotes from the Bible to show that it is right in the sight of God to lynch a rapist. The Bible also sanctions the burning of witches, but we daresay that even Mr. Oden does not believe in witch-burning. "Thou shalt not suffer a witch to live," says Exodus 22:18, and as a consequence of that command accredited to God, but long since discredited by common sense and human feeling, many thousands of innocent, helpless unfortunates were burned to death during some of the dark centuries in the world's history. No more should common sense and human feeling tolerate lynching on Biblical grounds.

Mr. Oden believes also that because the early white men in this country "wrought sure and terrible punishment" on the savage Indians, we Southerners are justified in lynching Negroes. But there is no comparison between taking men from the hands of the law to lynch them, and fighting Indians in a pioneer region where there was no organized society and no law worthy of the name. At least, the Indians had an opportunity to fight back.

The slanders about the "studied indifference" of The News to the suffering of a rapist's victim and the "mulatto-minded press of Alabama" hardly deserve notice. The sensitivity of any person to such an outrage requires no stressing; in any tragedy of that kind sympathy is taken for granted. And as for the attitude of the Alabama press toward lynching, it is to the eternal credit of the influential newspapers of this state, and of the South, that they have not merely stood virtually united against the practice, but that they have so vigorously championed the cause of law and order and opposed all forms of mob violence.

Lynching has never yet curbed any sort of crime. In the nature of things it cannot, because, being a criminal act itself, it only tends to break down all law and order. Lynching is anarchy in action. At one time there were as many as 24 lynchings in Alabama in a single year—in fact, that number in two successive years, 1891 and 1892. Does anyone believe that conditions were improved by those lynchings? Does anyone believe that there was less of crime and outrage in Alabama then than there was, for example, during the 10-year period ending with 1932, when six of the 10 years were free of lynchings, and there was only one lynching in each of the other four?

Let all who may be inclined to believe as Mr. Oden believes remember that white men as well as Negroes are lynched; there were, in fact, many years in this country's history when more white men by far were lynched than Negroes. Let them remember that far more lynchings are committed for other crimes than for rape. And let them remember it has been definitely ascertained that sometimes innocent persons have been the victims of mob violence. When this form of anarchy prevails, it does not matter what may be a man's race or color, what the nature of the crime of which he is suspected, or whether he is guilty or innocent. If the viewpoint of Mr. Oden were generally held, no man could count himself safe; we would have a repetition of the injustice and cruelty of the witch-burning era, when the identity of the next victim depended on nothing more than the whim of the mob.

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Birmingham, Ala., News
May 10, 1934

THE NEWS' HONOR EDITORIAL

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USTON, TEX.
PRESS
FEB 20 1934

OUR LIBERTIES

AMERICA is losing too many civil liberties—and not knowing it.

"At no time," says the annual report of the American Civil Liberties Union, "has there been such widespread violation of the workers' rights by injunctions, troops, private police, deputy sheriffs, labor spies and vigilantes."

More than 15 strikers have been killed, 200 injured and hundreds arrested since last July. Some 40 injunctions have been issued against labor leaders. The National Labor Board has "lacked the will or the power to overcome the defiance of employers." Only where labor has been well organized have its legal rights been respected.

Last year 24 negroes and four whites were killed by mobs. California, whose governor keeps Mooney and Billings in jail and "gloated" over a double lynching, heads the union's blacklist. Alabama, Maryland's eastern shore, the mine and factory regions of Pennsylvania and Illinois are described as freedom's burial grounds.

The union agrees that the Roosevelt leadership has been a liberalizing leaven. Its immigration and Indian bureaus, its state department and some other agencies display a new spirit. But where property interests are directly affected its influence has been least effective. One wonders what would have happened had a reactionary government been in charge of reconstruction.

NORFOLK, VA.
VIRGINIAN PILOT
JUN 26 1934

Lynching At Its Foulest

A fouler lynching than that reported from Manchester, Tenn., could not well be imagined. The charge against Dick Wilkerson, the 35-year-old Negro who was abducted from a dance hall and shot to death and mutilated by a band of white men, was that he had slapped one of their number. He struck him, according to the report of officers, as the result of an altercation arising when the white men visited the Negro dance. Following this encounter the white men left the dance only to return later, their number augmented, to execute their abduction and murder.

Such moth-eaten defense of lynching as still receives credence in some quarters, argues the necessity of terroristic methods to enforce a separation of the races in those relationships that might lead to promiscuity and miscegenation. But here was a case in which the advance toward objectionable intermingling was made not by the victim but by his murderers. They themselves created the provocation by disregarding their own code. Traitors to their own principles, they invaded a dance to which they were not invited, in the full knowledge that they were doing something which could not make for peace and would most probably make for trouble.

Even under the faltering justice that rules collisions between the races south of the Potomac, the blame for the altercation in the dance hall should have been put on the aggressors—the cheap sensation-hunters who violated the privacy of a group that was entitled immunity from their intrusion. Their own responsibility for the difficulty at the dance would, under any sane system of justice, have debarred them from any reprisals against insult.

But sane justice was not consulted. That is the central vice of lynching whatever its provocation. The justice that rules it is the justice of prejudice, passion and force majeure—a combination that makes it possible for the provokers of a minor fracas to complete their folly with act of murder. If Tennessee can do nothing about such an unspeakable affront to elementary justice, the outlook for a sane and decent handling of friction between the races will remain dark.

Lynchings-1934
&
Federal Council of Churches.

4768

Federal Council of Churches Announces Honor Roll Of States Free From Lynching

"The year 1933 was probably the worst year in the crusade against the lynching evil since 1922," says the Federal Council of Churches in announcing today its Honor Roll of states free of lynchings in 1933. The Honor Roll, prepared by the Federal Council's Department of Race Relations, reveals that lynching has again spread to the territory of a larger number of states than in any of the eleven years since the Honor Roll was instituted. The number of victims of lynchings was larger in 1933 than in any year since 1926.

Age 2-24-34
New York Age

The year 1933 found only thirty-seven states remaining on the Roll of those free from the terrible evil of lynching," continued the statement of the Church Council. Eleven states lost places on the Honor Roll in 1933, which was six more than the preceeding year. California had not had a lynching since 1920; North Carolina had been free since 1930. Arkansas, Florida, Kentucky, Ohio and Virginia regained their places on the Honor Roll in 1933. All the other states that lost their places had been on the Honor Roll in some preceeding year."

Analyzing the record in greater detail, the statement says: "The disheartening revival of the evil appears in the total number of 28 victims—12 more than in 1927, 17 more than in 1928, 18 more than in 1929, 7 more than in 1930, 15 more than in 1931, and 20 more than in 1932. The number of states on the Honor Roll increased from 36 in 1924 to 43 in 1928, was the same in 1929, but decreased to 37 states in 1933." The Roll gives the following states free of the lynching evil last year according to available records:

Arkansas, Arizona, Colorado, Connecticut, Delaware, Florida, Idaho, Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Kansas, Kentucky, Maine, Massachusetts, Michigan, Minnesota, Montana Nebreska, New Hampshire, New Jersey, New Mexico, New York, Nevada, North Dakota, Ohio, Oklahoma, Oregon, Pennsylvania, Rhode Island, South Dakota, Utah, Vermont, Virginia, Washington, West Virginia, Wisconsin, Wyoming.

In releasing the statement, Dr George Edmund Haynes, Executive Secretary of the Federal Council's Department of Race Relations said "Until last year there were strong indications of a trend downward but the spread of territory under lynch law and the increase in the number of victims indicate that the mob spirit is again on a rising tide. For the first time in the history of the evil a governor of a soverign state publicly expressed his approval of the lynchers and his acquiescence in their crime before the fact. The sudden breakdown of the prosecution of the lynchers by state authorities in another state probably increased the tide.

"One bright spot in the whole gloomy picture is the fact, given by the Department of Records and Research of Tuskegee Institute, that there were thirty-seven instances in which officers of the law prevented lynchings. It was necessary in thirteen such instances of prevention, however, to use armed force. This is in contrast to thirty-one instances of the prevention of lynchings in 1932 and fifty-seven preventions in 1931.

"This record of increased territory under the sway of mob influence points to two definite tasks which face America: First, the hands of law officers must be strengthened by additional legislation—state and national—giving them power to deal with lynchers and increasing the penalty upon law officers who prove themselves delinquent in protecting prisoners. Secondly, the people, especially the younger generation, must be trained in self-control and respect for law and authority. This is a special responsibility of the press and of the churches.

"The widespread editorial condemnation of the evil and of the officials who have condoned it; the scathing arraignment of lynchers and their abettors by President Roosevelt; the introduction of the Costigan-Wagner Federal Anti-Lynching Bill in the Senate; and the protests of church organizations, women's organizations, f ree-lance grouped by years they have been the public conscience has been stirred afresh by this national menace."

The full Honor Roll by states grouped b yyears they have been free of lynching, as kept by the Federal Council's Department of Race Relations from available records follows:

States that never had a recorded lynching: Connecticut, Massachusetts, New Hampshire, Rhode Island, Vermont.

States that have no record of a lynching since 1886; Maine and New Jersey.

States that have no record of a lynching during the past twenty-five years: Delaware, Iowa, Michigan, Nevada, Wisconsin.

States that have no record of a lynching during the past twenty years: Idaho, Pennsylvania, South Dakota.

States that have no record of a lynching during the past fifteen years; Arizona, New York, Montana, Oregan, Wyoming.

States that have had no record of a lynching during the past ten years Colorado, Minnesota, Nebraska Washington.

States that have had no record of a lynching during the past five years: Illinois, New Mexico, Utah

States that have had no record of a lynching during the past two years: Indiana, North Dakota, Oklahoma, West Virginia.

States that have no record of a lynching during 1933: Arkansas, Florida, Kansas, Kentucky, Ohio Virginia.

Total states free of lynching in 1933—37.

Total states having lynching in 1933—11.

Total number of victims of lynching in 1933 (4 white. 24 Negro)—28.

N. Y. HERALD
FEB 19 1934

1933 Increase In Lynchings Called Menace

Church Council Reports 28 Victims of Mob Violence, Biggest Toll Since 1926

Urges a Change in Laws

Finds Practice Spreading to States Held Immune

Lunching in 1933 reached proportions of a national menace with more victims than at any year since 1926 and with mob violence spreading into areas hitherto regarded as immune, according to a report issued yesterday by the Federal Council of Churches.

In the new outbreak of lynching most of the victims, as usual, were Negroes the report shows. Of the twenty-eight persons killed by mobs last year four were white men.

"The year 1933 was probably the worst year in the crusade against the lynching evil since 1922," the Federal Council reported.

Report Assails Rolph

Conspicuous among the states witnessing a lynching revival was California, which had not had a lynching since 1920. The report condemns the action of Governor James Rolph jr., in condoning the San Jose lynchings in December and added:

"For the first time in the history of the evil a Governor of a sovereign state publicly expressed his approval of the lynchers and his acquiescence in their crime before the act."

One bright spot in the picture, according to the Federal council were "thirty-seven instances in which officers of the law prevented lynchings." State and local police forestalled only thirty-one hangings in 1932.

The council calls for more adequate anti-lynching legislation and additional "self-control" by the public in dealing with criminal suspects.

"This record of increased territory under the sway of mob influence points to two definite tasks which face America," the report suggests. "First, the hands of the law officers must be strengthened by additional legislation giving them power to deal with lynchers and increasing the penalty upon law officers who prove delinquent in protecting prisoners. Secondly, the people, especially the younger generation, must be trained in self-control and respect for law and authority. This is a special responsibility of the press and the churches.

Costigan-Wagner Bill Hailed

President Roosevelt's "scathing arraignment" of lynchers and their abettors and the introduction of the Costigan-Wagner Federal anti-lynching bill were hailed by the council as "indicattions that the public conscience has been stirred afresh by this national menace."

Last year lynch law invaded eleven states, claiming twenty-eight victims, twenty more than in 1932. States where persons were lynched last year were Alabama, California, Georgia, Louisiana, Maryland, Mississippi, Missouri, North Carolina, South Carolina, Tennessee and Texas.

Only five states—all in New England—never had a lynching, according to the Federal council. They are Connecticut, Massachusetts, New Hampshire, Rhode Island and Vermont.

New York Evening Post
FEB 19 1934

RED LETTER LYNCH YEAR

More people were lynched in 1933 than in any year since 1926, according to a report of the Federal Council of Churches. Victims numbered twenty-eight.

Mob violence spread to areas previously thought to be immune to the evil, the report states. It was revived in California, which had not had a lynching since 1920, it says, condemning Governor James Rolph Jr.'s action in condoning the San Jose lynchings in December. Persons were lynched in Alabama, California, Georgia, Louisiana, Mississippi, Maryland, Missouri, North Carolina, South Carolina, Tennessee and Texas.

Negroes, according to the report, as usual, made up most of the victims. Four were white men.

1933 The Worst Year In The Crusade Against Lynching Since 1922

SAYS REPORT FEDERAL COUNCIL OF CHURCHES

Tribune

2-22-34

Savannah Ga.

New York, Feb. 19—"The year 1933 was probably the worst year in the crusade against the lynching evil since 1922," says the Federal Council of Churches in announcing today its Honor Roll of states free of lynchings in 1933. "The Honor Roll, prepared by the Federal Council's Department of Race Relations, reveals that lynching has again spread to the territory of a larger number of states than in any of the eleven years since the Honor Roll was instituted. The number of victims of lynchings was larger in 1933 than in any year since 1926.

"The year 1933 found only 37 states remaining on the Roll of those free from the terrible evil of lynching," continued the statement of the Church Council. Eleven states lost their places on the Honor Roll in 1933, which was six more than the preceding year. Nine of these states had been on the Roll the preceding year. California had not had a lynching since 1920; North Carolina had been free since 1930. Arkansas, Florida, Kentucky, Ohio and Virginia regained their places on the Honor Roll in 1933. All the other states that lost their places had been on the Honor Roll in some preceding year."

Analyzing the record in greater detail, the statement says: "The disheartening revival of the evil appears in the total number of 28 victims—12 more than in 1927, 17 more than in 1928, 18 more than in 1928, 7 more than in 1930, 15 more than in 1931, and 20 more than in 1932. The number of states on the Honor Roll increased from 36 to to 43 in 1928, was the same in 1929, but decreased to 37 states in 1933." The Roll gives the following states free of the lynching evil last year according to available records:

Arkansas, Arizona, Colorado, Connecticut, Delaware, Florida, Idaho Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Kansas Kentucky, Maine. Massachusetts Michigan, Minnesota, Mountana, Nebraska, New Hampshire, New Jersey, New Mexico, New York, Nevada, North Dakota, Ohio, Oklahoma, Oregon. Pennsylvania, Rhode Island. South Dakota, Utah, Vermont, Virginia, Washington, West Virginia. Wisconsin, Wyoming.

In releasing the statement, Dr George Edmund Haynes, executive secretary of the Federal Council's Department of Race Relations "Until last year there were strong indications of a trend downward, but the spread of territory under sway of lynch law and increase in the number of victims indicate that the mob spirit is again on a rising tide. For the first time in the history of the evil a governor of a soverign state publicly expressed his approval of the lynchers and his acquiescence in their crime before the fact. The sudden breakdown of the prosecution of the lynchers by state authorities in another state probably increased the tide.

"One bright spot in the whole gloomy picture is the fact, given by the Department of Records and Research of Tuskegee Institute that there were 37 instances in which officers of the law prevented lynchings. It was necessary in thirteen such instances of prevention, however, to use armed force. This is in contrast to thirty-one instances of the prevention of lynchings in 1932 and fifty-seven preventions in 1931.

"This record of increased territory under the sway of mob influence points to two definite tasks which face America: First, the hands of law officers must be strengthened by additional legislation—state and national—giving them power to deal with lynchers and increasing the penalty upon law officers who prove themselves delinquent in protecting prisoners. Secondly, the people, especially the younger generation, must be trained in self-control and respect for law and authority. This is a special responsibility of the press and of the churches.

"The widespread editorial condemnation of the evil and of the officials who have condoned it; the seathing arraingement of lynchers and their abettors by President Roosevelt; the introduction of the Lynching Bill in the Senate; and the protests of church organizations, women's organizations, free-lance group and agencies. indicate that the public conscience has been stirred afresh by this national menace."

Tribune

2-22-34

Savannah Ga.

The full Honor Roll by states grouped by years they have been free of lynching, as kept by the Federal Council's Department of Race Relations from available records ,follows:

States that never had a recorded lynching:

Connecticut, Massachusetts, New Hampshire, Rhode Island, Vermont.

States that have no record of a lynching during the past twenty-five years:

Delaware, Iowa, Michigan, Wisconsin.

States that have no record of a lynching during the past twenty years:

Idaho, Pennsylvania, South Dakota

States that have no record of a lynching during the past fifteen years:

Arizona, New York, Montana, Oregon, Wyoming.

States that have no record of a lynching during the past ten years:

Colorado, Minnesota, Nebraska Washington.

States that have no record of a lynching during the past five years:

Illinois, New Mexico, Utah.

States that have no record of a lynching during the past two years:

Indiana, North Dakota, Oklahoma, West Virginia.

States that have no record of a lynching during 1933:

Arkansas, Florida, Kansas, Ken-ucky, Ohio, Virginia.

Total states free of lynching in 933, 37; total states having lynch-ng in 1933, 11; total number of ictims of lynching in 1933, 4 white and 24 Negro, 28.

St. Petersburg, Fla., Times
February 24, 1934

On Again, off Again

The Federal Council of Churches, viewing with grave alarm reports of 28 lynchings in the United States in 1933, is calling for state and national legislation to curb the evil. Every state in the Union has murder laws, but apparently the churchmen do not view these as sufficient to stop the mobsters.

Eleven states, the council reported, allowed mob action in 1933. Florida was one of the states where no lynchings occurred in that period and consequently this state has been restored to the "honor roll." Unfortunately, however, Florida again will lose its honor position, the Tampa lynching of a negro putting it back in the "territory where lynch law holds sway."

"The council's report, regarding last year's crimes, said, in part:

"Until last year there were strong indications of a trend downward but the spread of territory under sway of lynch law and the increase in the number of victims indicate that the mob spirit is again on a rising tide.

"For the first time in the history of the evil a governor of a sovereign state publicly expressed his approval of the lynchers and his acquiescence in their crime before the fact.

"The sudden breakdown of the prosecution of the lynchers by the state authorities in another state probably increased the tide.

"Law officers prevented 37 attempted lynchings. States omitted from the honor roll were Alabama, California, Georgia, Louisiana Maryland, Mississippi, Missouri, North Carolina. South Carolina. Tennessee and Texas."

Lynchings-1934
&
Federal Council of Churches.

4597

NEBRASKA CITY, NEB.
NEWS-PRESS

FEB 22 1934

NEBRASKA didn't have any lynchings in 1933, for that matter hasn't had any for a decade. There were 28 U. S. lynchings in 1933 which the Federal Council of Churches declares "was probably the worst year in the crusade against the lynching evil since 1922." Thirty-seven states didn't have a lynching party last year. California was the black sheep among those who did have, having its first since 1920. Five states, Connecticut, Massachusetts, New Hampshire, Rhode Island and Vermont have never had a recorded lynching. The council points out two salient facts: The hands of law officers must be strengthened by additional legislation and the penalty must be increased for punishment of officers who are delinquent in protecting prisoners; the people, especially the younger generation, must be trained in self-control and respect for law and authority.

MANCHESTER, N. H.
UNION

FEB 21 1934

THE LYNCHING PROBLEM.

There is much food for thought in the bulletin just issued by the Department of Race Relations of the Federal Council of Churches showing the marked revival of lynching in this country during the past year.

Prior to 1933 there were strong indications of a downward trend in the tendency toward this type of lawlessness. The number of states indulging in the practice was reduced from 12 in 1924 to five in 1929, and the number of victims accordingly. During 1933, however, the number of states rose to 11, and the number of victims to 28. This latter figure is 12 more than in 1927, 17 more than in 1928, 18 more than in 1929, seven more than in 1930, 15 more than in 1931, and 20 more than in 1932.

Strangely enough also the proportion of lynchings was lower in the so-called Black Belt, where negroes comprise more than half the population, than in counties whose population was less than one-fourth colored.

Any serious attempt to deal with this problem deserves attention. But it is doubtful if the Costigan-Wagner bill now before Congress gets at the root of the evil. This bill proposes to levy a fine up to $5,000 or imprisonment up to five years, or both, on any state or local official who fails to protect a prisoner from injury at the hands of a mob or who is lax in his duty of dealing with any member of a mob.

Any county in which a person is killed by a mob would be fined $10,000. Also, the federal court in the judicial district would be given jurisdiction over such cases when the local authorities fail in the performance of their task.

Without touching upon the constitutionality of this measure, as an infringement on the rights of the state, one may ask if it is not attempting to mop up the water while the faucet is left running. Mob violence is usually due to lack of public confidence in the operation of the law. Multiplied delays, miscarriages of justice, and a mawkish leniency with criminals, have outraged public sentiment and led many citizens to believe that to get justice they must take the law in their own hands. Alter these conditions, and the lynching evil will die of itself. To the sponsors of the Costigan-Wagner bill we say, Turn off the faucet.

WILLIAMSPORT, PA.
SUN

FEB 21 1934

LYNCHING STATISTICS

The Federal Council of Churches has issued its annual report on lynching statistics, showing that 1933 marked up a black record which offsets much of the progress which had apparently been made in the long battle to eliminate this evil.

There were 28 lynchings last year, four white men and 24 Negroes being the victims.

This was an increase of 20 over the preceding year.

Lynchings occurred in Alabama, California, Georgia, Louisiana, Mississippi, Maryland, Missouri, North Carolina, South Carolina, Tennessee and Texas, eleven states in all.

There are but five states, all of them in New England, in which there have been no recorded lynchings.

There were in 1933 37 recorded instances in which officers of the law, by promptness, bravery and defiance of mobs, prevented lynchings.

For the first time in history the governor of a state openly condoned a lynching and became a party to it by acquiescence before the act, by refusing to provide the precautions against mob violence which authorities had asked.

The most significant item in this survey is that in no single instance was the law successful in convicting a person accused of participation in a lynching. There were several instances in which arrests of alleged lynchers were made, but, law officials motivated by fear of political consequences, and local feeling reflected in the refusal of jurors to convict neighbors, defeated every effort to bring into play the strongest weapon against lynching—punishment of lynchers. As long as it remains an impossibility to convict lynchers, efforts to stamp out lynching will be handicapped.

BEAUMONT, TEX.
ENTERPRISE

FEB 21 1934

A BAD YEAR FOR LYNCHINGS

Announcing its honor roll of states that had no lynchings in 1933, the Federal Council of Churches says: "The year 1933 was probably the worst year in the crusade against the lynching evil since 1922." Notwithstanding a persistent campaign of education carried on by the press, the churches and organizations of various kinds, lynching in 1933 covered a wider territory than in any other year since 1922.

This may well be considered discouraging, yet lynching, itself a form of crime, is produced by other criminal acts. Crime in the United States is nation-wide. It is to be expected that when so many robberies and other crimes are committed, lawlessness will infect people who are not in the criminal class and crimes will be committed that lead to mob violence. This fact may explain why there were more lynchings in 1933 than in any year since 1926, although crime in America is by no means a new manifestation.

According to the best available information, 37 states had no lynchings last year. The total number of persons lynched was 28, in 11 states, or 20 more than in 1932. Four of the victims were white. One state governor, Rolph of California, achieved unenviable notoriety by becoming the first governor of a state to publicly condone a lynching, and last year California had a double lynching, as a result of the Hart kidnaping case, the first instance of mob violence recorded in California since 1920.

The council finds "one bright spot in the whole gloomy picture," namely, "the fact, given by the department of records and research of Tuskegee institute, that there were 37 instances in which officers of the law prevented lynchings." The campaign of public education must be having some effect, and yet the failure of the law to apprehend and punish lynchers continues to present one of the greatest obstacles to the eradication of lynching. Immunity from punishment fosters mob outbreaks. How many persons would take part in a lynching, if they knew they would be arrested and probably sent to prison for a long term?

The council thinks "two definite tasks . . . face America: First, the hands of law officers must be strengthened by additional legislation—state and national—giving them power to deal with lynchers and increasing the penalty upon law officers who prove themselves delinquent in protecting prisoners. Secondly, the people, especially the younger generation, must be trained in self-control and respect for law and authority. This is a special responsibility of the press and of the churches."

There are enough laws in existence now to break up lynchings—if they were enforced. The emphasis on laws and still more laws, may be misplaced. And there are sound reasons for objecting to giving the federal government police authority over the states, merely in the hope that such abrogation of state rights will break up lynching. It may do nothing of the kind. Unfortunately, America is a crime-ridden country. Mob violence is one phase of criminality which may be traced to general disrespect for law. While making state laws stronger might prove to be beneficial, the crusade against lynching must touch something deeply rooted in national character, which laws cannot reach. The American people will have to become more amenable to laws than they are today, if lynching is to be eradicated.

Dawson, Ga., News
March 1, 1934

CHURCHMEN PROTEST RECORD OF LYNCHINGS

FEDERAL COUNCIL DEPLORES SPREAD OF EVIL DURING THE PAST YEAR.

Noting that twenty-eight persons were lynched during 1933 in eleven states, the Federal Council of Churches has called for state and national legislation to curb the practice.

"The year 1933 was probably the worst year in the crusade against the lynching evil since 1922," said the council in announcing its honor roll of states that had no lynchings during the year.

Arkansas, Florida, Kentucky, Ohio and Virginia regained their places on the honor roll in 1933.

"Until last year there were strong indications of a trend downward," said Dr. George Edmund Haynes, executive secretary of the department of race relations, "but the spread of territory under sway of lynch law and the increase in the number of victims indicate that the mob spirit is again on a rising tide.

"For the first time in the history of the evil a governor of a sovereign state publicly expressed his approval of the lynchers and his acquiescence in their crime before the fact. The sudden breakdown of the prosecution of the lynchers by the state authorities in another state probably increased the tide."

Law officers, the report said, prevented thirty-seven lynchings. States omitted from the honor roll were Alabama, California, Georgia, Louisiana, Maryland, Mississippi, Missouri, North Carolina, South Carolina, Tennessee and Texas.

DAYTON, O.
JOURNAL

FEB 22 1934

A NATIONAL MENACE.

ACCORDING to a report just issued by the Federal Council of Churches, lynching in 1933 reached proportions of a national menace, with more victims than in any year since 1926 and with mob violence spreading into areas hitherto regarded as virtually immune. Attention is called to California, which had not had a lynching since 1920. The action of the governor of that state in condoning lynchings is roundly condemned.

The council calls for more adequate anti-lynching legislation and additional "self-control" by the public in dealing with criminal suspects. The report states: "This record of increased territory under mob influence points to two definite tasks which face America. First, the hands of the officers of the law must be strengthened by additional legislation giving them these power to deal with lynchers and increasing the penalty upon law officers who prove delinquent in protecting prisoners. Secondly, the people, especially the younger generation, must be trained in self-control and respect for law and authority. This is a special responsibility of the press and the churches."

There can be no disagreement with this. The crime of lynching must be stamped out. The press, the schools and the pulpit share with courts and legislatures the duty of bringing to an end a national disgrace. The year 1933 ought to be made the last year of wholesale public vengeance without resort to the law.

ONEONTA, N. Y.
STAR

FEB 24 1934

Alarmed at Lynchings

No less than 28 persons were lynched in 11 states during 1933, which fact arouses some apprehension on the part of the Federal Council of Churches in America. In commenting upon the fact that the record is the worst since 1922 the report of the council **says**:

> Until last year there were strong indications of a trend downward, but the spread of territory under sway of lynch law and the increase in the number of victims indicate that the mob spirit is again on a rising tide. For the first time in the history of the evil a Governor of a sovereign state publicly expressed his approval of the lynchers and his acquiescence in their crime before the fact. The sudden breakdown of the prosecution of the lynchers by the state authorities in another state probably increased the tide.

It is quite probable that economic and other conditions existing in the country were responsible, in part at least, for the mental attitude of many people toward this crime, yet that is no excuse for the prevalent tendency to let passion overpower respect for orderly procedure. Usually the mob in the excitement of the moment follows the lead of a few, who may always be found in any section, inclined to take the law into their own hands. The inclination is difficult to control when the throng is aroused over the commitment of a heinous crime.

The success of the mob bent on vengeance usually depends upon the kind of peace officials they encounter. In too many instances, it is feared, the official having the accused in charge is in sympathy with the mob and offers little resistance. The right kind of sheriff, backed by such support as he may be able to summon, often halts the mob. When so disposed he can usually thwart the plans of the would-be lynchers.

This crime, as with all others, will decrease when punishment becomes certain. When, as so often occurs, it is impossible to secure evidence or an indictment though the offenders are known, then the public, who condone the offense by failure to cooperate with the prosecuting officials, are responsible for the frequency of the crime. When the governor of a great state, notable for its good government and progressiveness in many ways, publicly justifies the lynching, there is little to hope that the crime can be suppressed. In case where there is evidence that the sheriff has offered feeble or no resistance to the mob, that official should be promptly removed. Society, in the final analysis, is responsible for the 28 lynchings reported in 1933.

Walla Walla, Wash.
UNION

FEB 25 1934

SURVEY SHOWS WASHINGTON FREE OF LYNCHINGS IN LAST 10 YEARS

Four White and 24 Negroes Victims of Mob Murder in 1933, Churches Declare.

"The year 1933 was probably the worst year in the crusade against the lynching evil since 1922," says the Federal Council of Churches in announcing its honor roll of states free of lynchings in 1933. Washington is included in the list of states free of lynchings in 1933 and has had no lynching within its boundries during the last 10 years the report shows.

Lynching spread in 1933 to the territory of a larger number of states than in any one of the 11 years since the honor roll was instituted, continues the report which we prepared by the council's department on race relations. The number of victims in 1933—28 was larger than in any year since 1926.

Eleven States Mar Record.

Only 37 of the 48 states were free of this evil last year, it is said.

Analyzing the record in greater detail, the statement says: "The disheartening rivival of the evil appears in the total number of 28 victims—12 more than in 1927, 17 more than in 1928, 18 more than in 1929, seven more than in 1930, 15 more than in 1931 and 20 more than in 1932. The number of states on the honor roll increased from 36 in 1924 to 43 in 1928, was the same in 1929 but decreased to 37 states in 1933".

"One bright spot in the whole gloomy picture is the fact, given by the department of records and research of Tuskegee Institute, that there were 37 instances in which officers of the law prevented lynchings. It was necessary in 13 instances of prevention, however, to use armed force. This is in contrast to 31 instances of prevention in 1932.

Two Tasks Pointed Out.

"This record of increased territory under the sway of mob violence points to two definite tasks which face America: First, the hands of law officers must be strengthened by additional legislation—state and national—giving them power to deal with lynchers and increasing the penalty upon law officers who prove themselves deliquent in protecting prisoners. Secondly, the people, especially the younger generation, must be trained in self control and respect for law and authority. This is a special responsibility of the press and the churches."

Oregon and Montana have a record of no lynching during the last 15 years while Idaho, the report shows, has had no lynching during the last 20 years.

Labor - 1934 (Lynchings)

4598

International Labor Defense Report.

I. L. D. GIVES FIGURES ON AMERICA'S MOB RULE ACTIVITIES

NEW YORK.—Twenty-one lynchings took place in the first nine months of 1934, according to figures compiled by the national headquarters of the International Labor Defense.

In making the list public, the I.L.D. states: "There is no question that a large proportion of lynchings occurring in the United States are never reported in the press, and this list is offered as the most complete available.

"In nearly all of these cases, assistance if not leadership of officers of the law in the lynching was reported.

"There is no question that a large proportion of lynchings occurring in the United States are never reported in the press, and this list is offered as the most complete available.

"In nearly all these cases, assistance if not leadership of officers of the law in the lynching was reported.

10-27-34

"In each of these cases, at least three men participated in an organized manner in the lynching. Many other cases in which lynch-murders were committed by single private individuals or by officers of the law, or by less than three persons acting in concert, are not listed."

The list follows:

1. Unidentified man, lynched near Bartow, Ga., by a gang of white men January 9. No excuse given.

2. Rex Scott, 20, shot and hanged by gang of 50 men, at Hazard, Ky., January 23. Charged with striking a white man in a fight.

3. Robert Johnson, lynched near Tampa, Fla., Jan. 30, while in custody of Deputy Constable T. M. Graves on a charge of petty larceny. "Partial identification" for "attack on a white woman" (unnamed), was made after the lynching for press purposes.

LYNCHED BY HIS EMPLOYER

4. Jas. Franklin, yard hand, lynched by employer, Joe Kopman, with assistance of two policemen who held Franklin while Kopman shot him. This took place at Bradenton, Fla., April 13. Lynching was part of general reign of terror against organizing citrus workers, but a story of an "attack" on Kopman's daughter was given out.

5. Ramon Elloia, farmhand, 58, lynched at Greenville, Miss., April 22, by W. B. Basket, farm manager, Ben Dildant, sheriff, and two others. Shot to death after argument between Elloia and Will Moss, Negro foreman.

6. Unidentified man, found with rope around his neck, evidently lynched, on golf course at New Castle New York, May 5.

7. Unidentified man, shot to death by mob of 300 at Laurens, S. C., May 10. He was charged with shooting at and wounding Deputy Sheriff K. F. Johns when Johns beat him with a club.

8. Euchere Pete Sylve, mowed down by police and mob at Pointe a la Hache, La., May 11. Excuse later made up that he was "running amuck" proved false. He had refused to be arrested without a warrant.

9-10. Joe Love and Isaac Thomas, lynched at Lambert, Miss., June 8, hanged from a bridge. Charged with "assault." Sheriff and two deputies directly involved.

11. Son Griggs, 30, hanged, shot and dragged behind automobile by officers assisted by mob of 150, June 21, at Kirbyville, Texas, for associating with white woman friend.

MOB ALSO WRECKS HOME

12. Dick Wilkerson, 35, lynched by gang which destroyed his home also, after he had had an altercation with white hoodlums invading Negro dance, at Manchester, Tenn., June 24.

13. Andrew McCloud, charged with "attempted assault", lynched by K.K.K. gang, which organized a mob of 300 at Bastrop, La., July 9. Throat cut and hanged. Sheriff and Police Chief conveniently "out of town" while he was taken from jail.

14. Moise Wilson, shot by gang of deputies at Franklinton, La., in July, when his home was invaded by them on the excuse that a mule on the farm had not been dipped according to law.

15. James Sanders, 25, shot and killed by gang at Bolton, Miss., July 23, charged with being sweetheart of white girl.

16. Henry Beford, 70, whipped to death by gang of men at Pelehatchie, Miss., July 30.

17. Grafton Page, 30, beaten to death at Bethany, La., Aug. 3. The Bulletin of the International Juridicial Association says of this lynching: "At first no explanation was made of this lynching, but later the dubious one was offered that members of his own race had lynched Page because of his alleged assault on a Colored girl."

18-19. Rob. Jones and Smith Houey hanged by gang at Ashland, Miss., Aug. 13. Charged with killing two white men more than a year previously.

20. George Taylor, lynched in Birmingham, Ala., Aug. 28, shot by a gang of men who poured out of church on report a Negro had accosted two white girls with a gun.

21. George White, turned over to a gang who killed him and threw his body into a swamp near Savannah, Ga., Sept. 2, by police who had arrested him on a charge of "attempting to attack a white woman."

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25 Lynchings in '34, Reds Report; Tuskegee Says 15.

Afro American

Usual Variation Between Official Figures Sent Out by 2 Organizations.

1-[illegible]-35

N. A. A. C. P. LIST GIVES 16 VICTIMS

Baltimore Md.

Mississippi Worst Lyncher; 50 Mobs Foiled.

NEW YORK (CNA)—Twenty-five known lynchings, including one of the most beastly and fiendish in many years, is the record piled up for 1934, according to figures given out by the ILD.

That this total represents only lynchings that came to light, and that there were undoubtedly many others, is stressed by the ILD in its report. Many lynchings take place that are never reported, the ILD stated. Some lynchings do not come to light for many weeks.

A case of this sort was the lynching of George Taylor in Birmingham. Such suppression of the facts of a lynching is particularly frequent when the lynching is the work of a small group, of three to a dozen people.

Mississippi led the list for 1934 with a total of eight lynchings. Louisiana was next with four; Georgia and Florida had three each; Alabama had two, and one lynching occurred in each of the following states: Kentucky, New York, South Carolina and Tennessee.

Whitewash Lynchers

Efforts to secure punishment of persons involved in lynchings met with the usual cynicism and whitewash proceedings from courts, hand-picked lily-white juries and law-enforcement officials. The attorney-general's office refused to take action in the lynching of Claude Neal at Marianna, Fla., on October 28, although the Lindbergh kidnaping law would plainly cover the case. Neal was kidnaped from jail in Brewton, Ala., and taken across the state line to Florida.

Since the ILD has been publishing its annual lynching record, its estimates have differed from the estimates of other organizations such as the NAACP and Tuskegee Institute. The totals recorded by the NAACP and Tuskegee Institute have always been smaller. This has led to discussion on the question: "What constitutes a lynching?"

The ILD has included no murder as a lynching unless three or more persons were involved, who had been organized to some extent for that purpose. But it has included all such murders as lynchings, even though one or more members of the lynch-gang may be an official of the law. The fact that a leader or member of the lynch-mob sports a sheriff's badge does not make the affair any the less a lynching, the ILD claims.

N.A.A.C.P. Lists 16

NEW YORK—There were sixteen authenticated lynchings in 1934, or twelve less than the twenty-eight recorded in 1933, a decline of 42.85 per cent, according to figures released Friday by the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People.

Mississippi led with six lynchings; Louisiana, Florida, and Alabama followed with two each; and Kentucky, Texas, Georgia and Tennessee had one apiece. Four of the victims were hanged, six were shot to death, two were beaten to death, one was shot and hanged, and one was stabbed, shot, and hanged.

8 States Prevent Lynchings

Lynchings were prevented at Angleton, Texas, and Hernando, Miss., in January; at Ft. Collins, Colo., in February; at Shreveport, La., in April; at Greenville, S.C., in May; at Thomasville, N.C., in November; and at Ellaville,, Ga., and at Shelbyville, Tenn., in December.

Eight white men were convicted for the lynching of Dick Wilkerson at Manchester, Tenn., on June 24.

Threat of U.S. Law Helped

"The lynching record as compared with 1933 is better," declared Walter White, NAACP secretary, "due primarily to the fact that the fear of Federal legislation caused a complete cessation of lynchings while the Costigan-Wagner bill was pending before Congress.

Need for Law Emphasized

This year's record, and especially the cessation, proves conclusively not only that Federal legislation is the only hope but that it can stop lynching. The formation of vigilantes at Shelbyville following the destruction of the $150,000 courthouse is understandable, but it is the clearest revelation yet made of how complete is the lack of respect for the state and the present local government in communities where lynchings break forth.

Tuskegee Says 15

TUSKEGEE INSTITUTE, Ala. Only fifteen lynchings were included in the report compiled by research of Tuskegee Institute in the department of records and research of Tuskegee Institute for the year 1934, the distribution agreeing with that in the NAACP report with the exception that only one was charged to the State of Alabama.

The report lists, for comparison, 28 lynchings for 1933, 8 for 1932, 13 for 1931 and 21 for 1930

ILD Reports Twenty-five Lynchings For 1934

There were twenty-five lynchings recorded in 1934, according to a compilation made by the International Labor Defense, and released January 2. All the victims were Negroes.

This figure of recorded lynchings compared with 49 for 1933 (two not recorded until January 1934), and 37 in 1932.

Cope

The figures, the I. L. D. stressed in making the record public, are not claimed to be inclusive of all lynchings which occurred during 1934, but only of those which were recorded in the press with the addition of two about which no news report was ever published. Information of these was obtained by the International Labor Defense through private sources.

1-5-35

New York

An indication of the incompleteness of the record is afforded by the fact that information about several of these lynchings was only published in the press weeks and months after their occurrence.

Mss

The I. L. D. record shows that Mississippi heads the list, with eight lynchings followed by Louisiana with four, Georgia and Florida with three each, Alabama with two, and Kentucky, New York, South Carolina Texas and Tennessee with one each.

In fifteen of the lynchings, implication of police or sheriff's officers was shown. In seven cases the victims were turned over to the lynchers by officers in whose charge they were, in six police or officers participated directly, in one the officers were conveniently out of town and left the jail unguarded; and in one case the authorities categorically refused to investigate the lynching.

In sixteen cases of lynchings recorded no "mob" was formed, but the lynchings were carried out by small groups of individuals, or by small, carefully organized gangs, often with county officers at their heads.

Addition to this list of the number of Negroes murdered by individuals imbued with the lynch spirit, or by wanton police, confident that no punishment would follow their act, would bring it up into the hundreds, the I. L. D. said. This method of terrorizing Negroes for the purpose of keeping them in economic subjection— the purpose behind all lynchings—has become more and more common all over the country, to a certain extent taking the place

In the present capitulation no of spectacular mob lynchings murder was counted a lynching unless three or more persons, more or less organized for the purpose, participated. The sporting of a police or sheriff's badge by a member or leader of the lynch gang or mob, however, was not considered as sufficient to make the occurrence ineligible for the lynch list.

In six out of the twenty five cases, no charge against the victim was made or could be ascertained.

In only three cases was a charge of "assault on a white woman" made. In two of these it was not made until after the lynching. In three other cases "attempted assault on white women" was used as a charge.

Other "charges" included "striking a white man," associating with a white woman friend, "not dipping his mule according to law," writing a letter to a young white girl, stealing turpentine—lynching came after acquittal in this case—and murder.

The I. L. D. pointed out, in making public his record of lynchings, that there are at present no laws, and none being officially considered, in state or federal circles, which are intended to be effective weapons against lynching, which has its roots in our economic system. The present state anti-lynch laws, and the proposed federal anti-lynch laws, with the exception of the Bill for Negro Rights and the Suppression of Lynching, proposed by the League of Struggle for Negro Rights and endorsed by the I. L. D. were characterized by the illosury trimmings of capitalistic justice.

The biggest tooth in any of the laws that have actually been proposed in Congress, it was pointed out, is a provision which in effect makes the government of a community pay a license, perhaps as high as $10,000, but still a license for the privilege of lynching a human being.

It was pointed out that in not a single case has actual punishment been meted out to lynchers, although in one case this year, at Shelbyville, Tenn., guardsmen shot and killed our leaders of a lynch-incited mob protecting themselves and a Negro.

ILD Lists 25 Lynchings, Tuskegee Says Only 15

Afro American

1-5-35

UNIDENTIFIED MAN—January 9, Bartow, Ga., by gang; investigation refused, body found in well, no excuse given.

REX SCOTT, 20—January 24, Hazard, Ky., by mob of 150-300; turned over by officers, shot and hanged. Hitting white man with hickory [illegible] attacked by him [illegible] from jail.

ROBERT JOHNSON—January 30, near Tampa, Florida; by gang in about 18 cars. Turned over to lynchers by constable supposed to be transferring Johnson to another jail. Deputy claimed beating but no bruises found. Shot five times. Arrested on petty larceny. After lynching, changed to "attack on white woman."

Held by Police.

JAMES FRANKLIN—April 3, Bradenton, Florida; by employer. Held by two policemen while he was [illegible] shooting. Charge of attack on employer's daughter made after lynching [illegible] employer, released on basis of "justifiable homicide." Part of campaign to prevent organization of citrus workers.

Pittsburgh

RAMON ELLOIE, 58—April 22, Greenville, Miss., farm manager and two others, assisted by sheriff. Shot. No Charge. Shooting result of argument over moving. Body hastily buried to avoid investigation to determine cause of death.

UNIDENTIFIED MAN—May 5, New Castle, N.Y.; strangling and beating.

UNIDENTIFIED MAN—May 10, Laurens S.C., mob of 300; led by county officers. Shot. Shooting and wounding deputy sheriff K. F. Johns when Johns beat him with club on soles of feet while he slept on church grounds.

Police Help, Too.

EUCHERE PETE SYLVE—May 11, Pointe a la Hache, La., gang; lynchers assisted by squads of police. Shot. Refused to be arrested without warrant.

JOE LOVE and ISAAC THOMAS—June 3 Lambert, Miss., gang; sheriff and two deputies involved directly. Hung from bridge. "Attempted assault." Delivered by officers.

SON GRIGGS, 30—June 21, Kirbyville Texas, mob of 150; turned over by police. Hanged, shot and dragged behind auto. Associating with white woman friend.

DICK WILKERSON, 35—June 28—Manchester, Tenn., mob. Shot and body mutilated. Striking white man. Wilkerson struck a white man for taking too much freedom with Negro women at a dance. They removed him from the hall and shot him.

Attorney Sympathizes.

ANDREW McCLOUD—July 9, Bastrop, La., K.K.K. gang; chief of police and sheriff out of town. Throat cut and hanged. "Attempted assault." District attorney addressing mob, said: "I sympathize with your attitude." Jail was undefended.

MOISE WILSON—July, Franklinton, La., deputies; shooting. "Mule not properly dipped according to state law." Deputies invaded the house of Wilson, threatening to arrest him for violation of the law. No warrant had been issued. Shooting followed and Wilson was killed. His brother, Jerome, was convicted of killing a deputy in the shooting.

EARLY L. COOK, 18—July 14, Georgianna, Ala., gang; taken from cell. Beaten and shot. Breaking into white man's house.

JAMES SAUNDERS, 25—July 23, Bolton, Miss., mob captured him but turned him over to two white men. Shot "while attempting to escape" the white men. Writing letter to a young white girl. Two white men were released—congratulated.

Business Men Complain.

HARRY BEDFORD, 70—July 30, Pelahatchie, Miss., gang. Whipping. No charge. Business men indignant because Bedford was good model of servility.

GRAFTON PAGE, 30—August 3, Bethany, La., gang; beating. "Assault of colored girl."

ROBERT JONES and SMITH HONEY—August 13, Ashland, Miss., mob; turned over by deputies. Hanging. Murder of white man more than a year ago. Two men delivered by two groups of deputies. Mobs converged and held dual lynching.

GEORGE TAYLOR—August, 28, Birmingham, Ala., gang; shooting. "Accosted porting him to Savannah. Method not Gang organized in church.

"Attempted Assault."

GEORGE WHITE—September 2, Savannah, Ga., gang in cars; police were transporting him to Savannah. Chirge not specified. "Attempted assault" on young white woman.

CURTIS JAMES—October 14, Jones, Ga., gang; shooting through window of his home. Stealing turpentine. Acquitted of charge. Shot after implicating white thieves.

CLAUDE NEAL—October 26, Marianna Fla., mob; turned over by Brewton, Ala. officers. Tortured and hanged. "Rape and murder." Lynching advertised in press. Federal government refused to take action on interstate kidnapping Florida officials refused to interfere.

JESSIE JONES—November, Greenville Miss., gang. Stabbed and strangled with chain. No charge. Lynched because he had a truck-driving job in the woods. Reported as "accident."

Lynchings - 1934
International Labor Defense Report.

4843

Locomotive Engineers Journal
Cleveland - O

FEB - - 1934

Lynchings Increase

A sharp increase in the number of lynchings occurred last year. As many as 47 lynchings were reported during 1933 by the International Labor Defense, as compared with 37 during 1932. Other estimates give 28 "known lynchings" during the year. Collusion by officers of the law in many of the lynchings is noted in the reports.

In very few cases were large "mobs" involved in lynchings, the I. L. D. report states. "Small, carefully organized gangs, in many cases with county officers at their head, in some composed of police officers, carried out these lynchings," it says. "In 27 cases, involving more than 30 victims, the lynchings were carried out by gangs of less than 25 men each."

Daily Worker
7-23-34
New York
N.Y.

13 Lynchings of Negroes Already Reported in 1934

Experience is that Most Lynchings are Not Reported by Press

NEW YORK.—Thirteen lynchings have been reported since January 1 this year, according to records kept by the International Labor Defense, it was announced by the organization last week.

Of the 13, all were Negroes. One lynching was reported from New York State, two from Florida, three from Mississippi, two from Louisiana, one each from Georgia, Kentucky, South Carolina, Texas, Tennessee.

In nearly all these cases, assistance if not leadership of officers of the law in the lynching was reported.

In each of these cases, at least three men participiated in an organized manner in the lynching. Many other cases in which lynch-murders were committed by single private individuals or by officers of the law, or by less than three persons acting in concert, are not listed.

State Officials Aided Lynchers in Most Cases

1) Unidentified Negro man, lynched near Bartow, Pa., by a gang of white men Jan. 9 No. excuse given.

2) Rex Scott, 20 years old, Negro, shot and hanged by gang of 50 men, at Hazard, Ky. on Jan. 23, Charged with striking a white man in a fight.

3) Robert Johnson, Negro, lynched near Tampa, Fla., Jan. 30 while in custody of Deputy Constable T. M. Graves on a charge of petty larceny. "Partial identification" for "attack on a white woman" (unnamed), was made after the lynching for press purposes.

4) James Franklin, Negro yard hand, lynched by employer, Joseph Kopman, with assistance of two policemen who held Franklin while Kopman shot him at Bradenton, Fla., April 3. Lynching was part of general reign of terror against organizing citrus workers, but a story of an "attack" on Kopman's daughter was given out.

5) Ramon Elloia, Negro farmhand, 58 years old, lynched at Greenville, Miss., April 22, by W. B. Basket, farm manager, Ben Dildant, sheriff, and two others. Shot to death, after argument between Elloia and Will Moss, Negro foreman.

6) Unidentified Negro, found with rope around his neck, evidently lynched, on golf course at New Castle, N. Y. May 5.

7) Unidentifed Negro shot to death by mob of 300, at Laurens, S. C. May 10, He was charged with shooting at and wounding Deputy Sheriff K. F. Johns when Johns beat him with a club.

8) Euchere Pete Sylve, Negro, mowed down by police and mob at Pointe a la Hache, La., May 11. Excuses later made up that he was "running amuck" proved false. He had refused to be arrested without a warrant.

9-10) Joe Love and Isaac Thomas, Negroes, lynched at Lambert, Miss., June 8, hanged from a bridge. Charged with "assault." Sheriff and two deputies involved directly.

11) Son Griggs, 30 years old, hanged, shot, and dragged behind automobile by officers assisted by mob of 150, June 21, at Kirbyville, Tex. for associating with white woman friend.

12) Dick Wilkerson, 35-year-old Negro, lynched by gang which destroyed his home also, after altercation with while hoodlums invading Negro dance, at Manchester, Tenn., June 24.

13) Andrew McCloud, Negro, charged with "attempted assault" lynched by K. K. K. gang organizing mob of 300 at Bastrop, La., July 9. Throat cut, and hanged. Sheriff and Police Chief conveniently "out of town" while he was taken from jail.

I. L. D. Reports 13 Lynchings Of Negroes Since January 1; Cast Doubt As To Accuracy Of Record

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N. A. A. C. P. Figures Not Released Yet; Record Of Tuskegee Institute At Variance With Report Showing But Six Lynchings In Six Months

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Thirteen lynchings have been reported since January 1 this year, according to records of the International Labor Defense, the organization announced on Saturday. Of the 13, all were Negroes. One lynching was reported from New York State, two from Florida, three from Mississippi, two from Louisiana, one each from Georgia, Kentucky, South Carolina, Texas and Tennessee.

Age

While all of the lynchings the I. L. D. reports were published in the public press, not all of them were recorded as lynchings, particularly the 6th on the I. L. D. list which was that of an "Unidentified Negro, found with rope around his neck, evidently lynched, on golf course at New Castle, N. Y., May 5."

The I. L. D. reported that in nearly all of the cases, assistance if not leadership of officers of the law in the lynching was reported. It reported that many other cases in which lynch-murders were committed by private individuals or by officers of the law, or by less than three persons acting in concert, were not recorded on its list as lynchings.

The organization's list of lynchings follows:

7-28-34

1—Unidentified Negro man, lynched near Bartow, Ga., by a gang of white men Jan. 9. No excuse given.

2—Rex Scott, 20 years old, Negro shot and hanged by a gang of 50 men, at Hazard, Ky., on Jan 23. Charged with striking a white man in a fight.

3—Robert Johnson, Negro, lynched near Tampa, Fla., Jan. 30, while in custody of Deputy Constable T. M. Graves on a charge of pety larceny. "Partial identification" for "attack on a white woman" (unnamed), was made after the lynching for press purposes.

4—James Franklin, Negro yard hand, lynched by employer, Joe Kopman, with assistance of two policemen who held Franklin while Kopman shot him, at Bradenton, Fla., April 3. Lynching was part of general reign of terror against organizing citrus workers, but a story of an "attack" on Kopman's daughter was given out.

5—Ramon Elloia, Negro farmhand, 58 years old, lynched at Greenville, Miss., April 22, by W. B. Basket, farm manager, Ben Dildant, sheriff, and two others. Shot to death, after argument between Elloia and Will Moss, Negro foreman.

6—Unidentified Negro, found with rope around his neck, evidently lynched on golf course at New Castle, N. Y. May 5.

7—Unidentified Negro shot to death by mob of 300, at Laurens, S. C., May 10. He was charged with shooting at and wounding deputy sheriff K. F. Johns when Johns beat him with a club.

8—Euchere Pete Sylve, Negro mowed down by police and mob at Pointe a la Hache, La., May 11. Excuse later made up that he was "running amuck" proved false. He had refused to be arrested without a warrant.

9-10—Joe Love and Isaac Thomas, Negroes, lynched at Lambert, Miss., June 8, hanged from a bridge. Charged with "assault". Sheriff and two deputies involved directly.

11—Son Griggs, Negro, 30 years old, hanged, shot, and dragged behind automobile by officers assisted by mob of 150, June 21, at Kirbyville, Tex., for associationg with white woman friend.

12—Dick Wilkerson, 35-year-old Negro, lynched by gang which destroyed his home also, after altercation with white hoodlums invading Negro dance, at Manchester Tenn., June 24.

13—Andrew McCloud, Negro, charged with "attempted assault," lynched by K. K. K. gang organizing mob of 300 at Bastrop, La. July 9. Throat cut, and hanged. Sheriff and Police Chief conveniently "out of town" while he was taken from jail.

Tuskegee Records Six

At the same time the ILD figures were released, the statistical department of Tuskegee Institute reported in the public press that it had compiled a list of six lynchings for the same period.

Records of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People were not released for publication.

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21 Lynchings Reported in 1st Nine Months of 1934

NEW YORK—(CNA)—Twenty-one lynchings took place in the first nine months of 1934, according to figures compiled by the national headquarters of the International Labor Defense.

In making the list public, the I.L.D. stated:

Afro-American

"There is no question that a large proportion of lynchings occurring in the United States are never reported in the press, and this list is offered as the most complete available.

10-20-34

"In nearly all these cases, assistance, if not leadership, of officers of the law in the lynching was reported.

Baltimore.

Md

"In each of these cases, at least three men participated in an organized manner in the lynching. Many other cases in which lynch-murders were committed by single private individuals or by officers of the law, or by less than three persons acting in concert, are not listed."

Afro-American.

The list follows:

1—Unidentified man, lynched near Bartow, Ga., by a gang of white men, January 9. No excuse given.

2—Rex Scott, 20, shot and hanged by gang of fifty men, at Hazard, Ky., January 23. Charged with striking a white man in a fight.

3—Robert Johnson, lynched near Tampa, Fla., January 30, while in custody of Deputy Constable T. M. Graves on a charge of petty larceny. Partial identification for attack on a white woman (unnamed), was made after the lynching.

Two Cops Help

4—James Franklin, yard hand, lynched by white employer, Joe Kopman, with assistance of two policemen who held Franklin while he was being shot. This took place at Bradenton, Fla., April 13. Lynching was part of general reign of terror against organizing citrus workers but a story of an "attack" on the employer's daughter was given out.

5—Ramon Elloia, farm hand, 58, lynched at Greenville, Miss., April 22, by W. B Basket, farm manager, Ben Dildant, sheriff, and two others, all white. Shot to death after argument between Elloia and Will Moss, foreman.

Golf Course Lynching

6—Unidentified man, found with rope around his neck, evidently lynched, on golf course at New Castle, N.Y., May 5.

7—Unidentified man, shot to death by mob of three hundred, at Laurens, S.C., May 10. He was charged with shooting at and wounding Deputy Sheriff K. F. Johns when Johns beat him with a club.

No-Warrant Case

8—Euchere Pete Sylve, mowed down by police and mob at Pointe a la Hache, La., May 11. Excuse later made up that he was "running amuck" proved false. He had refused to be arrested without a warrant.

9—Joe Love and Isaac Thomas lynched at Lambert, Miss., June 8, hanged from a bridge. Charged with assault. Sheriff and two deputies directly involved.

Had White Girl Friend

11—Son Griggs, 30, hanged, shot and dragged behind automobile by officers assisted by mob of 150, June 21, at Kirbyville, Tex., for associating with white woman friend.

12—Dick Wilkerson, 35, lynched by gang which destroyed his home also, after he had had altercation with white hoodlums invading a dance, at Manchester, Tenn., June 24.

K.K.K. Back

13—Andrew McCloud, charged with attempted assault, lynched by K.K.K. gang, which organized a mob of three hundred at Pastrop, La., July 9. Throat cut and hanged. Sheriff and police chief "out of town" while he was being taken from jail.

14—Moise Wilson, shot by gang of deputies at Franklinton, La., in July, when his home was invaded by them on the excuse that a mule on the farm had not been dipped according to law.

Had White Sweetheart

15—James Sanders, 25, shot and killed by gang at Bolton, Miss., July 23, charged with being sweetmeart of white girl.

16—Henry Beford, 70, whipped to death by gang of men at Pelehatchie, Miss., July 30.

17—Grafton Page, 30, beaten to death at Bethany, La., August 5. The Bulletin of the International Juridicial Association says of this lynching: "At first no explanation was made of this lynching, but later the dubious one was offered that members of his own race had lynched Page because of his alleged assault on a colored girl."

Year-Old Crime

18—Robert Jones and Smith Houey

hanged by gang at Ashland, Miss., August 13. Charged with killing two white men more than a year previously.

20—George Taylor, lynched in Birmingham, Ala., August 28; shot by gang of men who poured out of church on report a man had accosted two white girls with a gun.

21—George White, turned over to a gang who killed him and threw his body into a swamp near Savannah, Ga., September 2, by police who had arrested him on a charge of attempting to attack a white woman.

Lynchings-1934
Legal Punishment for Rape.

Alabama

4856

Supreme Court of Alabama Sets Feb. 8 For Execution Of Patterson and Norris

Daily Worker 11-17-34
New York, N.Y.

Youths Were To Be Burned Dec. 7—International Labor Defense Lawyers Will File New Writ in Supreme Court Within Few Days—Leibowitz Repudiated by New Retainers—Speed in Defense Funds Campaign Urged

A stay of the date of execution for Haywood Patterson and Clarence Norris, Scottsboro boys, to Feb. 8, 1935, was granted by the Alabama Supreme Court yesterday upon application made by Osmond K. Fraenkel, attorney for the International Labor Defense, in charge of the appeals to the U. S. Supreme Court. The date for execution had originally been set for Dec. 7.

The application was made to give the U. S. Supreme Court the opportunity to pass upon the application for review of the cases.

EXECUTION STAYED!

NOVEMBER 16, 1934.
10.42 A. M.
OSMOND K. FRAENKEL
76 BEAVER STREET,
NEW YORK CITY.

Daily Worker
11-17-34
New York, N.Y.

SUPREME COURT OF ALABAMA HAS GRANTED STAY OF EXECUTION IN PATTERSON AND NORRIS CASES AND RESET DATE OF EXECUTION FOR FEBRUARY 8, 1935, WILL FORWARD YOU CERTIFIED COPY OF ORDER.

(Signed) R. F LIGON,
Clerk of the Supreme Court of Alabama.

Within a few days, application for a writ of certiorari in these cases will be filed with the U. S. Supreme Court, together with the accompanying briefs, by Mr. Fraenkel. These papers have been prepared with the assistance of Mr. Walter H. Pollak, noted constitutional attorney, who has been retained with Mr. Fraenkel in these cases by the International Labor Defense.

New Retainers Secured

At the same time that this announcement was made, the International Labor Defense made public new retainers obtained from Haywood Patterson and Clarence Norris to refute the false statements made by Attorney Samuel S. Leibowitz that he is in charge of the cases. Mr. Leibowitz has not been connected with the Scottsboro defense since October 4, when he withdrew when notified that Fraenkel and Pollak, constitutional attorneys, had been retained by the I. L. D. to take the appeals to the U. S. Supreme Court.

The retainers are once more a complete refutation of all Leibowitz's claims.

Defense Funds Needed

The urgent and increasing need of funds to carry on the legal and mass campaign to force the U. S. Supreme Court to grant the application for review, and to grant a reversal of the lynch verdicts in these cases was stressed by the International Labor Defense in making these announcements.

Contributions for the Scottsboro-Herndon fund should be rushed by telegraph, airmail, special delivery to the national office of the International Labor Defense, Room 610, 80 East 11th Street, New York City.

To Hold Scottsboro Benefit

NEW YORK.—A Scottsboro benefit dance and entertainment is announced for next Wednesday evening, Dec. 5, in Harlem, to help raise the $6,000 urgently needed by the International Labor Defense to push the legal and mass fight for the lives and freedom of the Scottsboro boys.

The affair arranged jointly by the Harriet Tubman Branch of the League of Struggle, Hill District, and the Finnish Workers Club, will be held in the Finnish Workers Center at 15 West 126th Street. The arrangements for the affair include continuous dancing on the roof garden and a program in the auditorium, with contributions by noted Negro and white artists and various workers' dance groups, and, it is expected, the Workers Laboratory Theatre.

Subscription is 35 cents in advance and 40 cents at the door, with the entire net proceeds to be turned over to the Scottsboro-Herndon defense fund of the I.L.D.

Haywood to Speak on Case

NEW YORK.—The importance of the world-wide mass fight for the lives and freedom of the Scottsboro boys in relation to the whole fight for Negro liberation will be dealt with by Harry Haywood, National Secretary of the League of Struggle for Negro Rights, this Sunday afternoon, 4 o'clock, at the Harlem Workers School Forum in the Harlem Workers Center, 415 Lenox Avenue.

Haywood's subject will be "Scottsboro—An Epoch in the Negro Liberation Movement."

Call for Volunteers

NEW YORK. — Volunteers are urgently needed by the International Labor Defense to work on the campaign to raise funds for the Scottsboro campaign. Workers to address and stuff envelopes are asked to report within the next few days to the national office of the I.L.D., Room 610, 80 East 11th St.

BRIBE OFFER PROBED IN SCOTTSBORO CASE

State's Key Witness In Famous Trial Before Jury

Post
11-23-34
Birmingham, Ala.

HUNTSVILLE, Nov. 22.—(Special.)—Mrs. Victoria Price, principal witness for the state in the Scottsboro attack cases, appeared before the Madison County grand jury which this week is investigating the alleged attempt of two New York lawyers and a Birmingham man to bribe her to change her testimony.

Action of the grand jury in the case has not been disclosed. Sol Kone and Donald Swift, the New York lawyers, were held in jail here 30 days before gaining freedom on bond. J. T. Peerson, of Birmingham, also was held as a participant in the alleged conspiracy

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Brief Filed By I. L. D.

Daily Worker
12-1-34
New York

WASHINGTON, D. C., Nov. 30.—Application and accompanying brief for the writ of certiorari in the appeal of Haywood Patterson against the lynch-verdict of death on framed charges of "rape" were filed today with the U. S. Supreme Court by Osmond K. Fraenkel, attorney retained in the appeals by Haywood Patterson and the International Labor Defense.

The papers were prepared with the assistance of Walter H. Pollak, famous constitutional attorney who conducted the appeal to the U. S. Supereme Court for seven of the boys, two years ago, which resulted in reversals.

Similar papers in the Norris case were filed some days ago. The Patterson brief took more time to prepare as it raised not only the constitutional question of the exclusion of Negroes from the grand and petit juries which indicted the boys and heard the trial, but other questions in regard to the conspiracy between the trial judge, Callahan, and Attorney-General Knight of Alabama, to rob Patterson of his appeal rights through outright trickery, and questions of prejudice of Judge Callahan, displayed more openly in Patterson's trial than in Norris'.

SCOTTSBORO BROADCAST WAS FAKED

Daily Worker
11-26-34

Mrs. Patterson Says Radio Talk Was Made by Policeman's Wife

New York N.Y.

WAS LAWYER'S PLAN

Was Part of Maneuver To Sabotage Defense of Negro Boys

Add that famous radio appeal "by Mrs. Janie Patterson" for support of the so-called American Scottsboro Committee to the collection of falsifications and brazen misrepresentations spread by the renegade defense attorney, Samuel S. Leibowitz, and his cronies in their vicious campaign to disrupt the fight for the lives and freedom of the nine Scottsboro boys.

11-26-34

The radio appeal, widely publicised by the capitalist press and the reformist Negro papers as "proof" that Mrs. Patterson was supporting the disrupters of her son's defense, was not made by the mother of Haywood Patterson, but by the wife of a Harlem Negro policeman posing as Mother Patterson.

This startling revelation was made last Friday night by Mrs. Ada Wright, mother of two of the Scottsboro boys, at a meeting of the National Scottsboro-Herndon Action Committees, at its Harlem headquarters, 2376 Seventh Avenue. Mrs Wright returned Friday afternoon from the South where she had visited Mrs. Patterson and had a long talk with her.

Never Went Back on I.L.D.

"Mrs. Patterson told me she had never made that broadcast and had never gone back on the I. L. D.," Mrs. Wright declared. "'You know I couldn't speak that good, nohow; they used the wife of a Negro policeman and introduced her as me,' Mrs. Patterson told me. She told me further that while she had been confused by Mr. Leibowitz and his people into signing papers for them she had never repudiated the I. L. D., nor made any appeal for that American Scottsboro Committee. And what's more, she said she would come to New York to tell the whole story if the I. L. D. wants her to."

Mrs. Wright also declared that Claude Patterson, Haywood Patterson's father, was opposed all along to signing any papers for Leibowitz and General George Chamlee, the other renegade defense attorney.

Mother Wright reported that she had stopped off in Birmingham to see the seven boys held in Jefferson County prison there. She had not been able to visit Patterson and Clarence Norris at Kilby Prison this time, but learned that Leibowitz had recently chartered a plane seating ten persons to take a group to visit the two boys.

Forged Telegrams

The Action Committee decided to issue leaflets in the tens of thousands to acquaint the people of Harlem and other communities with the facts in the case, and especially to expose the latest lie of the Amsterdam News, based on a forged telegram from Clarence Norris, alleging that the I L. D. had threatened to withdraw the 60-day stay of execution won for Patterson and Norris by the I. L. D. attorneys and the mass fight should the two boys sign for Leibowitz. Members of the Action Committee pointed out that such a threat was absolutely contrary to the policies of the I.L.D. and referred to the readiness of that organization to turn over all papers in the case to Leibowitz several weeks ago, before the boys themselves had exposed the deception practiced on them by Leibowitz and his cronies and had insisted that they wished the I.L.D.

POLICE OPEN FIRE ON 500 AT MEETING

Application Filed on Patterson Appeal by I.L.D. Attorney

Daily Worker

WRIT APPLIED FOR

12-1-34

Brief Cites Trickery Of District Attorney To Help Appeal

New York N.Y.

(By [illegible] to the Daily Worker)

HAVANA, Nov. 30.—Domingo Ferrer, 23-year-old white worker and member of the Young Communist League, died last night in Emergency Hospital from wounds received in the police attack on the Scottsboro defense meeting. Three other Young Communists, who were struck by police bullets, are in a serious condition. Ferrer's funeral is scheduled for late this afternoon. Protests are arriving from all over the Island accusing Police Captain Lombardo and other officials as being responsible for the shooting.

(By Cable to the Daily Worker)

HAVANA, Cuba, Nov. 30.—Four youths were critically wounded and many others injured when police opened fire without warning on a crowd of 500 persons as they were leaving a mass meeting held for the freedom of the Scottsboro Negro boys. Two of the youths were reported in a dying condition today. Eight were arrested.

The protest meeting, called jointly by the Committee for Negro Rights and the Cuban section of the International Red Aid was a tremendous success. Among other speakers, the well-known intellectual Juan Marinello and Antonio Maceo, nephew of the famous Cuban Negro patriot addressed the assemblage in the auditorium of the Negro Union of Fraternal Societies. Resolutions were uanimously adopted protesting the monstrous frame-up of the Scottsboro boys and the fascist lynch terror against the Negro people of the United States and ordered presented to the American Ambassador here for transmission to President Roosevelt.

As the enthusiastic crowd left the auditorium, a police car ordered to the scene by Colonel Pedraza, aide of General Batista, sprayed the peaceful crowd with machine gun bullets. Police then charged into the crowd, arresting 30 persons. Workers and students prevented the arrest of many others, including the attorney Ofelia Dominguez.

It is the opinion of many here that the brutal attack on the Scottsboro demonstrators was ordered by the U. S. Ambassador here.

SCOTTSBORO APPEAL IN SUPREME COURT

B'ham

Plea Made That Negroes Are Kept Off Juries

12-1-34

By United Press

WASHINGTON, Dec. 1.—The plea that the conviction of Haywood Patterson, one of the defendants in the Scottsboro, Ala., attack cases be set aside because Negroes are systematically barred from grand and petet jury service in Alabama, was lodged with the supreme court today.

Trio Indicted In Bribery Scandal

Advertiser
11-28-34

Men Accused Of Offering Victoria Price $1,500 Are Named In True Bills

Montgomery Ala.

HUNTSVILLE, ALA., Nov. 27.—(AP)—Three men arrested last September on charges of attempting to bribe the principal State witness in the "Scottsboro case" today were indicted by the Madison County Grand Jury.

The true bills returned by the Grand Jury which had been in session 10 days named Sol Kone and Daniel Swift, both New York attorneys, and J. W. Peerson, of Birmingham, as having attempted to bribe Mrs. Victoria Price.

Peerson was in jail here, but whether he would be brought to trial immediately was in doubt, Kone and Swift were released several weeks ago under bonds of $2,000 each, pending action by the Grand Jury.

The trio was charged by the State with having attempted to get Mrs. Price, principal witness in trials resulting in two of the nine negro defendants in the case being sentenced to death for allegedly attacking her, to sign an affidavit repudiating her testimony.

In a preliminary hearing here, Mrs. Price testified that she had been offered $1,500 to sign "a paper" and that Peerson told her after she had signed it she could go before a jury and say she did so just to get the money.

The arrest of the trio resulted from a tip Mrs. Price gave officers that Peerson had been to her home, offering her money to sign the paper, she later advised officers she had agreed to go to Nashville with him to meet Kone and Swift and obtain the money.

Just outside Huntsville, Peerson was arrested by officers who stopped the car. Kone and Swift were arrested in Nashville, Tenn., where Mrs. Price said she was to meet them to "sign the paper" and receive her money.

The two attorneys fought extradition, but Governor Hill McAlister granted extradition and the men were rushed to Alabama to prevent further proceedings in their behalf.

Mrs. Price in trials of Haywood Patterson and Clarence Norris, two of the nine negro defendants, at Decatur a year ago testified they attacked her aboard a Southern Railway freight train in Jackson County on March 25, 1931.

BIRMINGHAM, ALA
NEWS
AUG 5 1934

Two Of Dillinger's Pals Cite The Scottsboro Case

A very strange use has been made of the Supreme Court's decision in the so-called Scottsboro case up in Columbus, Ohio, where two Dillinger gangsters are attempting to save themselves from the electric chair by claiming that the presence of the militia at their trial prevented them from obtaining a fair hearing. These two men—Harry Pierpont and Charles Makley—have been found guilty of killing Sheriff Jesse Sarber while liberating Dillinger from the Allen County jail at Lima about a year ago.

In an appeal to the Ohio Supreme Court, the attorneys of the two gangsters attempt to draw a parallel between their trial and what took place at Scottsboro, Ala., when several Negroes were on trial on a charge which has received wide notoriety. They claim that an armed guard was thrown about the Ohio courthouse and that restrictions were placed upon the spectators, witnesses, defendants, the lawyers and even the jury.

The specific charge is made that during the trial of Pierpont, Sheriff Don Sarber, the son of the slain officer, menaced the defendant and his counsel with a machine gun, which he kept pointing in their direction "with a nervous trigger finger."

At first glance, one would not be inclined to think that an appeal based upon these contentions would carry a great deal of weight with the Ohio Supreme Court. It is quite likely that the militia was thrown about the courthouse in order to prevent the indignant citizens of Lima from taking an illegal revenge upon the two gangsters who had killed the local sheriff.

If the truth must be known, similar considerations obviously were in the minds of the Scottsboro authorities who called upon the national guard in the Alabama trial. Furthermore, the presence of the militia at the first hearings of the Scottsboro case was by no means the determining factor in the decision of the United States Supreme Court.

The peculiar grounds upon which the Dillinger gangsters are basing their appeal demonstrate one of the most dangerous possibilities of the reliance upon precedent in legal matters. On the face of it, there would seem to be very little similarity between the conditions surrounding this Ohio trial and those which prevailed in the Alabama case which is cited as a parallel. Yet, when a precedent has been established, lawyers of a certain type will jumble facts as much as possible in an effort to demonstrate parallels which really do not exist.

Lynchings-1934

Legal Punishment for Rape.

Alabama

4648

Liebowitz Out of Scottsboro Defense Staff

Daily Worker

10-6-34

NEW YORK.—Samuel S. Liebowitz, chief trial counsel for the International Labor Defense in the Scottsboro case, has withdrawn completely from the case, following the announcement that Walter H. Pollak, noted constitutional authority, would take the appeals in the cases to the United States Supreme Court, the I.L.D. announced yesterday.

The decision to accept the offer of Mr. PoPllak, who brilliantly conducted the first successful appeal to the U. S. Supreme Court in 1932, was communicated to Mr. Liebowitz on Oct. 1, the I.L.D. said. Mr. Liebowitz, whose ambition it was to have his name on the appeals—even though he is in no sense a constitutional attorney — was extremely angry at that time that he had not been chosen for this work, for which he is totally unfitted. He has never in his whole career conducted such an appeal.

His announcement of complete withdrawal from the case was timed to come with the announcement by the Alabama Court Oct. 3 of its refusal to entertain a motion for rehearing in the cases of Heywood Patterson and Clarence Norris. It was accompanied by vicious, slanderous attacks upon the International Labor Defense, which for three and a half years has saved the lives of the Scottsboro boys—a fact which Mr. Liebowitz has been forced time and again to admit. The I.L.D. engaged Liebowitz as the best available lawyer at the time for the Scottsboro trials, and is now continuing the legal and mass fight for the lives and freedom of the Scottsboro boys, engaging the best available constitutional attorney for the legal end of the fight in the "court of last illusions," the U. S. Supreme Court.

Personal Ambition Scored

Under no circumstances, the I.L.D. statement stressed, would the personal ambitions of any attorney be put ahead of the interests of the Scottsboro boys, or of any other political prisoners, in their fight for life and freedom. To have retained any but the ablest available constitutional attorney for the Supreme Court appeals, would have been false to the principles of the organization and a betrayal of the boys, and of the whole struggle of the Negro people for national liberation, of which this fight is an inseparable part.

"Mr. Liebowitz is out of the case because he has chosen to put his personal and political ambition above the interests of the Scottsboro boys," the I.L.D. statement said. "He is not a constitutional lawyer, and therefore completely unsuited to take the case to the U. S. Supreme Court. He has exposed his motives of personal ambition in the case by his withdrawal at this time, and by the vicious, unwarranted attacks upon the I.L.D., which has saved the lives of the boys for three and a half years, and which is continuing the fight for their lives and freedom.

"Now, more than ever," the I.L.D. statement said, "masses of workers must be organized to fight to save the lives of the Scottsboro boys and obtain their unconditional freedom. The case now goes to the U. S. Supreme Court, which must first of all be forced by the mass pressure of the workers all over the world, to consent to review the case, and then to free the boys unconditionally, which is within the power of this court."

Protests must be addressed to the U. S. Supreme Court and to President Roosevelt, both at Washington.

Alabama Kidnaps Two Attorneys

CHATTANOOGA, Tenn., Oct. 5.—Throwing a federal writ of habeas corpus served on them out of the car window, Alabama deputies Thursday kidnaped two attorneys, Daniel Swift and Sol Kone, and spirited them across the border.

The two attorneys were charged with "bribery" in a crude frame-up in which Alabama authorities charged an attempt to bribe Victoria Price, whose perjured testimony has been used as the basis for the conviction of the Scottsboro boys, and the sentences of death against two of them.

They were arrested in Chattanooga on request of Alabama authorities, who claimed that a man named Pearson had told them the attorneys were coming to give him money, as a go-between, for Victoria Price.

A hearing was held before Governor McAlister of Tennessee, here, and extradition ordered.

Before the order could be executed, an attorney had obtained a federal writ of habeas corpus, based on the fact that the extradition was illegal, no specific date or specific offense having been charged.

The writ was served on the Alabama authorities as they started away with the two attorneys in their car, and was legally binding upon them. They threw the writ out of the window of the car, stepped on the gas, and proceeded to Huntsville, Ala.

PRICE BRIBERY CHARGES CITED AS A REASON

Amsterdam News

10-6-34

Lawyer Will Continue if Communists Are Barred From Case

New York, N.Y.

By T. R. POSTON.

The arrest in the South of three white men accused of an attempt to bribe Victoria Price, chief state witness in the Scottsboro case, caused major repercussions here Wednesday when Samuel S. Leibowitz, brilliant trial attorney, bitterly scored the Communists for their activities and announced his withdrawal from the present defense of the famed case unless the Communists are removed from all connection.

The chief defense counsel, whose presentation of the case at Decatur, Ala., has been called one of the most perfect in American jurisprudence, also attacked the International Labor Defense, which originally engaged him for the case, and accused that organization of hampering his handling of the defense by "mysterious moves behind the scenes." In withdrawing from the present defense, however, Attorney Leibowitz announced his willingness to continue in the case if "the Communists are removed from all connection with the defense." The lawyer gave his services to the case without cost and paid his own expenses.

Whites Arrested.

Attorney Leibowitz's action followed the arrest Saturday and Sunday in Alabama and Tennessee of three white men, who are accused of offering Victoria Price $1,000 to recant her story that she was attacked by six of the nine youthful Scottsboro defendants on an interstate freight train on March 25, 1931. The men are J. W. Pearson of Birmingham and Daniel Swift and Sol Kone of New York City. Kone is an employee in the office of Joseph R. Brodsky, chief counsel of the I. L. D.

Pearson was arrested Saturday near Huntsville, Ala., when he drove into a trap set by the Price woman and the Alabama authorities, whom she had informed of the alleged bribe attempt. On information furnished by Pearson, Swift and Kone were arrested the next day in Nashville, soon after their arrival there in a chartered plane from Cincinnati.

Finds $1,500 Cash.

After the two New York men had been carried to jail, Deputy Sheriff Corcoran, one of the arresting officers, stated that he found $1,500 in $1 bills secreted in his car. Both Swift and Kone denied ownership of the money. Extradition proceedings were argued Thursday before Governor Hill McAllister of Tennessee, in an effort to take the men to Alabama for trial on bribery charges.

In commenting on the arrests, Attorney Leibowitz said: "I knew nothing of the activities of two men from the International Labor Defense who were arrested in Nashville, charged with attempting to bribe Victoria Price. The defense needed no such help. If anything, the developments have dealt a foul blow to the Scottsboro defendants."

Hits Leibowitz.

Attorney Brodsky, speaking for the I. L. D., said that organization denied "absolutely any attempt to bribe Victoria Price." He said the I. L. D. was waiting word from the two men before making further statements. Newspaper reports, he added, gave the impression that Swift and Kone were victims of a "crude frame-up attempt."

In speaking of Attorney Leibowitz's withdrawal, Brodsky intimated that the I. L. D. had "fired" the defense lawyer because the latter insisted upon arguing the impending appeals of Haywood Patterson and Clarence Norris twice convicted defendants, before the United States Supreme Court. He stated that Leibowitz had objected to the I. L. D.'s action in retaining Walter H. Pollak and Osmund Fraenkel for this task. Pollak successfully discharged this action in the first Scottsboro appeal to the U. S. Court.

"We hired Pollak for the new U. S. Supreme Court appeal," Brodsky said, "because he is the best appeal lawyer in the United States, just as we secured Leibowitz, because he is the best trial lawyer."

Attorney Leibowitz gave the Communist activities and the secret manoeuvers of the I. L. D. as his reasons for withdrawing from the present defense of the case, however. His statement points out that the Communists have raised "large sums of money by exploitation of this case through paid admission mass meetings throughout the country and kindred forms of lucrative ballyhoo," while his services were given free.

"I do not propose to have myself or my clients used any longer to provide funds for parades to City Hall to disconcert the mayor of our city or for similar expeditions to Washington to embarrass the President," he said; "until all secret manoeuverings, ballyhoo, mass pressure and Communist methods are removed from the case, I can no longer continue. I am not deserting the Scottsboro Boys. I have given of my best and am prepared to continue to do so to the end that the Scottsboro Boys shall not die."

Ruby Bates, one time accuser with Victoria Price, but since her courtroom recantation the chief defense witness, is now in New York City. Attorney Leibowitz's full statement on his decision in the case appears in another column of this week's The Amsterdam News.

Amsterdam News 10-6-34

Two Held For Bribery Plot In Scottsboro Case

Advertiser

Witness Against Negroes, Victoria Price, Offered $500 For Repudiation

10-2-34

Ante Later Raised

Montgomery, Ala

Two Suspects Arrested At Nashville To Be Taken To Huntsville For Trial

HUNTSVILLE, ALA., Oct. 1.—(AP)—Alabama authorities tonight took steps to bring into their custody two men held at Nashville, Tenn., on charges of attempting to bribe Mrs. Victoria Price, the State's principal witness in the "Scottsboro case," to change her testimony.

Armed with information gained from J. W. Pearson, of Birmingham, who was arrested on a similar charge Saturday, Sheriff Ben Giles late this afternoon left for Montgomery to obtain a requisition for the two men held in Nashville.

The men in Nashville identified themselves to Tennessee police as Daniel Swift, who described himself as a New York attorney, and Sol Kone, also of New York, taken into custody there yesterday on instructions of Chief of Police H. C. Blakemore.

One Arrested Saturday

Pearson was arrested Saturday as he drove Mrs. Price on a highway toward Nashville, on a warrant sworn to by the woman. Pearson then swore to a similar warrant against Swift, and today Jack Tiller, bodyguard for Mrs. Price, made an affidavit against Kone.

Sheriff Giles said Pearson had directed him to his home in Birmingham to obtain letters he alleged were written him by Swift and others, concerning contacting Mrs. Price.

Pearson, according to Sheriff Giles, said he had met Swift in Chattanooga, Tenn., in June to discuss the matter and agreed to attempt to see Mrs. Price. The man said his only interest in the case was to help Mrs. Price obtain some money.

Mrs. Price, who has had a bodyguard since February, 1933, when Ruby Bates, second alleged victim of attack aboard a freight train March [illegible], 1931, disappeared, tipped police of the efforts to get her to change her testimony.

The woman told officers five weeks ago, Pearson approached her with an offer of $500 to sign an affidavit repudiating her testimony in seven trials in the case.

Offer Later Increased

Mrs. Price advised police Thursday that the offer had been renewed with $1,000 if she would change her testimony. In company with Pearson, Mrs. Price left the city in an automobile en route to Nashville to obtain the money and sign the affidavit.

A short distance out of the city, Pearson was arrested on a warrant sworn out by Mrs. Price.

Chief of Police H. C .Blakemore then advised Nashville officers to watch for Swift and asked for his arrest on charges of bribery on a warrant sworn out by Pearson.

Swift has told Tennessee officers that he was an attorney from New York, but has declined to say anything more until he talked with a lawyer, after which he said he would give "a disclosure of the facts of my visit." He also declined to waive extradition. Kone likewise has kept his counsel. Dist. Atty. Gen. J. Carleton Loser, at Nashville, would not permit newspapermen to question Swift, adding that his attempts to question them had met with failure.

Swift and Kone were taken into custody at a hotel here shortly after they arrived yesterday in an airplane chartered in Cincinnati.

Deputy Sheriff Corcoran, one of the officers making the arrest at Nashville, said after Kone and Swift got out at the jail he found $1,500 in $1 bills in his car.

"You're leaving your money," Corcoran said he told one of the men who replied, "it's not my money."

Late this afternoon, neither of the men held at Nashville had claimed the money.

Mrs. Price with Ruby Bates testified in the first trials at Scottsboro, from which the case took its name, that they were attacked by 12 negroes aboard a Southern Railway freight train as it rumbled through the mountains of Jackson County.

Bates Woman Changed Story

In the first trials, they identified the nine negroes held as their attackers, but after her disappearance in 1933, the Bates girl made a dramatic appearance in the second trial of Haywood Patterson at Decatur, under change of venue, to repudiate her former testimony.

The Bates girl said she had decided to "come back and tell the truth," although she previously had vigorously denied writing a letter to a friend in which she said the negroes were not guilty.

Patterson was convicted in this trial and sentenced to death, but Judge James E. Horton, who presided, set the verdict aside. Last Fall Patterson faced a jury for a third time and was sentenced to death, and the following week Clarence Norris was tried and convicted with the death sentence again imposed.

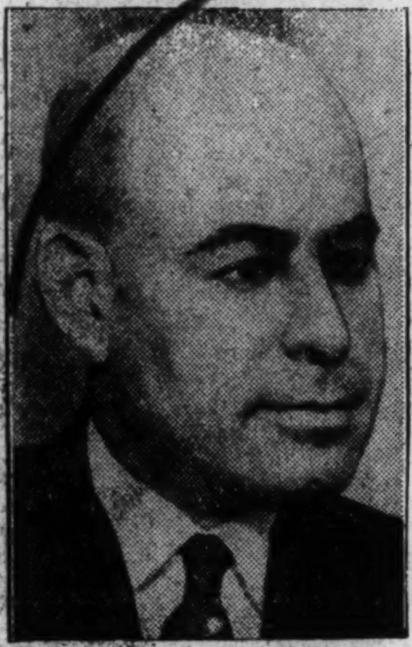
On motion by Samuel S. Leibowitz, of New York, chief of counsel retained for the negroes by the International Labor Defense, Judge W. W. Callahan deferred the remaining trials until appeals on the Patterson and Norris cases were acted upon.

Liebowitz had raised constitutional questions, holding that the rights of the defendants were violated because allegedly "negroes were excluded from Alabama juries solely because of their race and color."

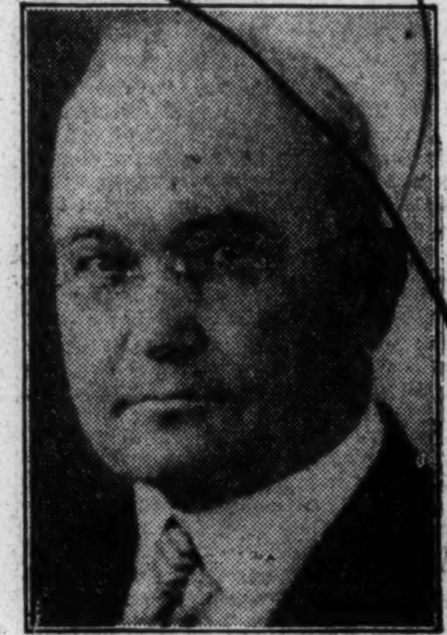
Patterson and Norris are in condemned row at Kilby Prison, Montgomery, but the other seven, two of whom have been adjudged juveniles, are in the Jefferson County Jail at Birmingham.

Advertiser 10-2-34 Montgomery, Ala

Miller And Lehman Swap Wires On Scottsboro Case



GOV. LEHMAN



GOV. MILLER

Governor Of New York Is Assured Swift And Kone Are Safe

Spiking a report made to Gov. Herbert H. Lehman, of New York, that two attorneys from that State had been "forcibly" taken from Nashville, Tenn., by "men claiming to be local Alabama officials" and "in defiance of a writ of habeas corpus," and expressing fears for the safety of the attorneys, Gov. Miller wired Gov. Lehman yesterday that the men brought to Alabama from Nashville were removed from there on requisition granted by the Governor of Tennessee, that they are in no danger, and that they will be accorded all their legal rights.

Advertiser

The report obviously refers to the removal from Nashville to Huntsville, Ala., of Daniel Swift and S. Kone, who claim New York as their place of residence, and who are being held in jail at Huntsville on charges of attempting to bribe Mrs. Victoria Price, key witness for the prosecution, to repudiate her testimony against the negro defendants in the "Scottsboro cases." Gov. Lehman transmitted the report to Gov. Miller in the following message:

10-2-34 Montgomery, Ala

Lehman's Message

"I am in receipt of the following telegram from the International Jurisdicial Association: 'Two New York attorneys forcibly taken yesterday from Nashville, Tenn., by men claiming to be local Alabama officials in defiance of writ of habeas corpus. We respectfully urge you to request Alabama Governor to protect these lawyers against further deprivation of due process. As this incident arises out of the Scottsboro cases feelings may run high in Alabama and endanger the attorneys unless the Governor takes steps to assure their safety."

Gov. Miller immediately dispatched the following reply to the Governor of New York:

Miller's Reply

"Your telegram re two New York attorneys held in Alabama. These men are charged with seeking to bribe a witness in an important felony case pending in the courts of Alabama. They were found in Nashville, Tenn. I issued extradition papers and, after hearing, the extradition was honored by the Governor of Tennessee and the men were brought to Alabama. There is no danger of any personal violence to them. They will be tried according to law and will be given all of their legal rights."

Atty. Gen. Knight, who has prosecuted the "Scottsboro cases" throughout, and who went to Nashville to urge Gov. Hill McAlister to grant the requisition for Swift and Kone, was back at the Capitol yesterday morning and during the forenoon received many congratulations on his part in bringing about the removal of the two accused attorneys to Huntsville.

Mr. Knight would not comment on the probable future course of procedure to be followed in dealing with Swift and Kone, but expressed his deep appreciation of the courtesy shown him by Gov. McAlister and of the cooperation extended by Atty. Gen. Beeler, of Tennessee, Dist. Atty. Gen. Lawser, his assistant Ben West, and the sheriff's office at Nashville.

"Frame-Up" Seen in Scottsboro Bribe Case

Afro-American

BULLETIN

NEW YORK—The I.L.D. had no comment to make today upon the arrest of two men charged with attempt to bribe a Scottsboro witness.

10-6-34

NASHVILLE, Tenn. — What is regarded as a frame-up in an attempt to embarrass the defense of the nine Scottsboro youths occurred here Monday when police charged two white men with attempting to bribe Mrs. Victoria Price, white, the State's principal witness.

Baltimore Md

The men arrested gave their names as Daniel Swift and Sol Kone, both of New York. They were arrested following a tip from J. W. Pearson, white, of Birmingham, arrested on the same charge. The latter was arrested as he drove Mrs. Price on a highway toward Nashville upon a warrant sworn to by the woman.

"Tried to Aid"

Pearson is said to have met Swift in Chattanooga, in June, to discuss seeing Mrs. Price. He is alleged to have stated that his only interest was to help Mrs. Price get some money.

Mrs. Price claimed that Pearson offered her $500 to sign an affidavit repudiating her testimony given in seven trials of the case. The offer, she said, was later raised to $1,000.

Ruby Bates Repudiates

In the first trials of the Scottsboro case, Mrs. Price and Miss Ruby Bates identified nine youths who they said attacked them. In 1933. Miss Bates repudiated her testimony at the trial of Haywood Patterson, at Decatur, under a change of venue. She dramatically testified that the accusations against the boys grew out of a desire of the women to escape legal punishment for certain of their acts.

Roy Wilkins, assistant sceretary of the N.A.A.C.P., told the AFRO, Tuesday, that his organization had no statement to make concerning the arrest in the South of the two alleged New Yorkers charged with attempts to bribe Mrs. Price.

Lynchings-1934

Legal Punishment for Rape.

Alabama

4649

Victoria Price of Scottsboro Fame, Gets More Publicity

Defender 10-6-34 Chicago, Ill.

Claims Men Tried To Bribe Her

By J. WINSTON HARRINGTON

HUNTSVILLE, Ala., Oct. 5.—Victoria Price, prominent white prostitute, whose lies, under oath, have kept seven boys under the shadow of the electric chair in Alabama for four years, managed to get some more publicity for herself this week by causing the arrest of two men in Nashville on the charge of attempting to bribe her.

On her statement that Atty. Daniel Swift of New York and Sol Kone, also of New York, had offered her a thousand dollars to change her testimony about the Scottsboro boys, these men were arrested in Nashville this week, and are being held there while efforts are being made by Sheriff Ben Giles to secure their extradition to Alabama. According to her statement, the men first offered her $500 to change her testimony, and later raised this to $1,000 when she demurred. They were taken into custody on instruction of Chief of Police H. C. Rakemore of Huntsville.

The Price woman achieved her notoriety in 1931 when she, with Ruby Bates, another white woman several years her junior, were arrested near Scottsboro, Ala., while riding a freight train dressed in men's clothing as hoboes. When she realized that there were several young Race boys also on the train, she sent up the cry of "rape," and declared that the boys were guilty of attacking her and Ruby Bates. The first trial, held at Scottsboro, lasted three days during which time seven of the boys were convicted and sentenced to die in the electric chair. Two of them, being only 12 years old, were held also, but not convicted.

The case, which has become one of the most celebrated in American history, has made two trips to the Alabama Supreme court, one to the United States Supreme court and is now awaiting its second hearing before the highest tribunal of the land. In the second trial, held after a change of venue at Decatur, Ala., in which Heywood Patterson, the first one of the boys tried, was again convicted on Victoria's testimony in spite of the fact that Ruby Bates, facing lynching threats, appeared in court and repudiated the original testimony.

10-6-34

Repeats Testimony

The third trial, concluded early this year, saw Victoria again holding the spotlight and repeating her lie. By this time, all the others with her at the original trial, including the two white men companions of her and Ruby Bates, declared that she was lying, and that the Scottsboro boys had not touched her. In spite of this fact, Patterson and Clarence Norris, the second of the boys, were again convicted.

The newest stunt on the part of the woman, who is known to have a record in Alabama for her immorality, is not given much credence by fair-minded white people of this state, but the police seem to be anxious to bolster up their tottering case by any method that suggests itself. One question that is flying about Alabama, as well as through the country, is: "Just who is willing to pay a thousand dollars to keep these boys from being sent to death?" They are known to be penniless, and absolutely without influence. While the nation has aroused itself to have them freed because of the fact that they are known to be innocent, no one appears who is willing to pay to bribe a witness to change her testimony from a lie to the truth.

THE SCOTTSBORO CASE AGAIN

Constitution 10-7-34 Atlanta, Ga.

The Scottsboro case, which has been in and out of the news for years, again erupts, this time with an alleged attempt to bribe one of the state's key witnesses.

Through the activities of northern organizations the case has become [illegible] a national controversy, but money to defend the negroes charged with attacking two young white girls who were bumming their way on a freight train, has been raised by speakers sent to foreign countries.

Perfervid orators have assured audiences, not only in America but in European countries, that Alabama justice was being used to legally "lynch" the accused negroes, who had been tried, found guilty on the evidence of their victims and sentenced to hang. New York organizations have sent attorneys to Alabama, who offended not only the courts but the public, by their sneering references to southern justice.

One of the two girls on whose testimony the negroes were convicted mysteriously disappeared, and now evidence has been unearthed, according to Alabama authorities, that efforts to bribe the other girl to change her testimony have been made.

For more than three years this case has been kept alive by recourse to every possible legal technicality. Through the activities of outside organizations, the people and the courts of a sovereign state have been held up to scorn and abuse.

It is high time that this malodorous case be settled once and for all, and that an end be put to outside interference in the process of justice in Alabama. To that end, if it is proven that the men charged with bribery are guilty, they should be given the heaviest penalty authorized under the law.

The use of bribery to thwart the ends of justice strikes at the very foundations of civilization. If it has been attempted in the Scottsboro case, there can be no further doubt as to the real basis for the "indignation" expressed by influences generally antagonistic to the south.

ALABAMA DENIES SEIZING 2 LAWYERS

Lehman Is Assured of Safety of New Yorkers Held as Scottsboro 'Bribers.'

~~Tennessee~~

EXTRADITION EXPLAINED

~~10-7-34~~

Governor Miller, Replying to Query, Says Tennessee Executive Granted It.

New York, N.Y.

MONTGOMERY, Ala., Oct. 6 (AP).—Governor B. M. Miller today received a telegram from Governor Herbert H. Lehman of New York asking him to investigate reports that Daniel Swift and S. Kone, New York attorneys, were "forcibly" taken from Nashville, in defiance of a writ of habeas corpus.

The Governor wired back that the men were extradited legally and that there "is no danger of any personal violence to them."

Governor Lehman's telegram follows: "I am in receipt of the following telegram from the International Juridical Association: 'Two New York attorneys forcibly taken yesterday from Nashville, Tenn., by men claiming to be local Alabama officials in defiance of a writ of habeas corpus. We respectfully urge you to request Alabama Governor to protect these lawyers against any further deprivation of due process. As this incident arises out of the Scottsboro cases, feelings may run high in Alabama and endanger the attorneys unless the Governor takes steps to insure their safety.'

"I believe this telegram should be brought to your attention. I am confident, of course, that the State of Alabama will at all times respect the full rights of these two citizens of New York State. I will greatly appreciate your efforts to insure their personal safety and the preservation of all their rights under the law."

Governor Miller replied:

"Your telegram re two New York attorneys held in Alabama. These men are charged with seeking to bribe a witness in an important felony case pending in the courts of Alabama. They were found in Nashville, Tenn. I issued extradition papers, and after hearing the extradition was honored by the Governor of Tennessee and the men were brought to Alabama. There is no danger of any personal violence to them. They will be tried according to law and will be given all of their legal rights."

Attorney General Thomas E. Knight Jr. said no habeas corpus writ was served on any of the Alabama officials in Nashville.

Lehman Receives Telegram.

Special to THE NEW YORK TIMES.

ALBANY, Oct. 6.—Governor Lehman this afternoon received the telegram sent by Governor Miller of Alabama assuring him that the rights of Daniel Swift and S. Kone, New York attorneys working in the "Scottsboro case," would be fully protected.

Swift and Kone were taken in custody in Nashville on charges by Alabama officials that they attempted to bribe Mrs. Victoria Price, chief State witness against the nine Negro defendants.

Mrs. Price told officers, according to the Alabama authorities, that J. W. Pearson of Birmingham six weeks ago presented an offer of $500 conditioned on her signing an affidavit repudiating her testimony.

The offer later was increased to $1,000, she told the authorities, and she and Pearson left Huntsville, Ala., last week for Nashville in an automobile to obtain the money, Alabama officers said. Outside of Huntsville the car was stopped and Pearson was arrested. He protested that his only interest in the case was to get some money for Mrs. Price and he swore to a warrant against Swift.

Jack Tiller, bodyguard for Mrs. Price, made an affidavit against Kone.

Swift and Kone were detained in Nashville on their arrival in a chartered plane from Cincinnati.

Two Negroes of the nine accused in the tried and retried case now are under sentence of death. Trials of the rest, on motion of Samuel S. Leibowitz, New York attorney, were deferred pending decision on appeals of the other two.

A secretary in Mr. Brodsky's office confirmed the report that Mr. Kone was employed there, but said she knew nothing of the other attorney.

THE SCOTTSBORO MESS

Advertiser 10-6-34 [illegible]

Recent events in the "Scottsboro" case have caused even Sam Leibowitz, the New York attorney for the Negro defendants, to repudiate the Communistic organization which has been running the show.

That Leibowitz has become disgusted with the tactics of some of those who insist on "aiding" in the defense should cause interested persons outside of Alabama to think twice before condemning Alabama courts.

What Leibowitz complains about has been the source of complaint by Alabamians since the infancy of the case.

ALABAMA COURT SETS EXECUTION DATE FOR DEC. 7

I.L.D. to Take Case of First 2 Tried to U. S. Supreme Court

10-5-34

MONTGOMERY, Ala., Oct. 4. — The Alabama Supreme Court, sitting in the old Confederate slave capital at Montgomery, Ala., today denied a re-hearing on appeal against the Decatur lynch verdicts against Haywood Patterson and Clarence Norris, two of the nine innocent Scottsboro boys, and fixed Dec. 7, as the date for their legal murder. The International Labor Defense immediately announced that the fight for the lives and freedom of the boys would be taken to the U. S. Supreme Court.

The decision of the Alabama Supreme Court followed directly on the heels of the arrest and frame-up of two men in the South, on charges of "attempting to bribe" Victoria Price, the lone State witness on whose unsupported word, despite the repudiation of her original coerced testimony by Ruby Bates, Patterson and Norris were re-convicted in Judge "Speed" Callahan's court in Decatur. The two events dovetail so neatly into each other as to completely expose the frame-up nature of the "bribery" charges.

Osmond K. Fraenkel, who handled the appeal to the Alabama Supreme Court, will be associated with Walter H. Pollack in carrying the appeal to the U. S. Supreme Court, the I. L. D. announced. Pollack argued the original appeal before the U. S. Supreme Court, when the world-wide mass protests forced that court to order a new trial for for the nine Negro victims of Southern lynch courts.

The I. L. D. appealed to all wokers, intellectuals and organizations to immediately intensify the mass fight for the safety and freedom of the boys by organizing mass meetings and other protest actions, and sending protest telegrams and resolutions to Gov. B. M. Miller of Alabama, President Roosevelt and the U. S. Supreme Court at Washington.

Defense Claims Struck Out

In a decision rendered last June 28 the Alabama Supreme Court had upheld the lynch verdicts of the Decatur court against Patterson and Norris. Its present ruling upholds that decision, in which it had arbitrarily struck from the record the bill of exceptions, and refused to note the violation of the constitutional rights of the Negro people by the lower court, and the rabid lynch incitement of the presiding Judge "Speed" Callahan, as well as of the prosecutor, Attorney General Thomas E. Knight, Jr., son of one of the Supreme Court justices.

In the Decatur trial, Callahan had hampered the defense at every move, overruling the objections of the International Labor Defense attorneys and even denying their right to cross-examine perjured witnesses or to enquire into the glaring contradictions of the State's witnesses. As a fitting climax to the openly hostile actions of the court, Judge Callahan in his charge to the jury neglected to state that the jury could acquit the defendants, and had to be reminded by the defense attorneys of this ordinary court procedure.

Callahan was put in charge of the case when Judge Horton, who presided at the first Decatur trial, was forced to admit that the evidence was preponderantly in favor of the innocence of the nine boys, framed up on a charge of having "raped" Ruby Bates and Victoria Price on a moving freight train between Memphis, Tenn., and Paint Rock, Ala., in 1931.

$1,000 Offered Scottsboro Witness To Repudiate Identification Of Negroes

Atty. Gen. Thomas E. Knight, Jr., left last night for Nashville, Tenn., to urge Gov. Hill McAllister to grant Alabama's requisition for the extradition of Daniel Swift and Sol Kone, held at Nashville, on charges of attempting to bribe Mrs. Victoria Price, the prosecution's star witness in the "Scottsboro cases," to repudiate her testimony that she and Ruby Bates were attacked by the negro defendants in the case.

Mr. Knight was accompanied by Asst. Atty. Gen. Thomas S. Lawson, who has been his principal aide throughout the various trials of the negro defendants in the cases.

Miller Issues Requisition

The requisition for Swift and Kone, who live in New York, was issued by Gov. Miller yesterday morning, and turned over to Sheriff Ben Giles, of Madison County, who left with one of his deputies for Nashville. The men who were arrested at their hotel there Monday morning, following the arrest at Huntsville of an alleged accomplice, J. W. Pearson, said they would resist extradition. Pearson also is charged with attempted bribery.

"So far as the officials of Alabama are concerned," Knight said, "no means will be spared to bring those charged with the commission of such a crime to the bar of justice.

"Certainly, where persons have attempted to thwart the ends of justice in one State, no matter where they may be temporarily domiciled, they should be extradited."

The Attorney General spent the afternoon in conference mapping out his plan of procedure when he arrives in Nashville but told newspapermen he was forced, by necessity, to keep his plan a secret until he arrived in Nashville.

Meanwhile, Pearson, who lives in Birmingham, remained in jail at Huntsville, where he was arrested on a warrant sworn to by Mrs. Price.

Pearson swore out a warrant against Swift after being arrested near Huntsville in a car with Mrs. Price on a highway leading to Nashville.

Woman Offered $1,000

Mrs. Price told officers she had been offered $1,000 to change her testimony given in seven trials of the case and that Pearson had said she would be paid that amount upon signing an affidavit in Nashville.

Kone was arrested with Swift, and both have refused to make public statements other than to say they would fight extradition pending conferences with attorneys.

At Nashville, chief Deputy Sheriff J. E. Murray, of Davidson County, said last night Sheriff Giles had arrived there at 9 o'clock with extradition papers for Swift and Kone.

Mrs. Price and Ruby Bates both testified at Scottsboro, where the case was first tried, they were attacked by 12 negroes aboard a freight train in Jackson County, March 25 1931. In a later trial at Decatur on a change of venue, the Bates woman, after having disappeared for some time, dramatically appeared in court to repudiate her previous testimony.

Two of the nine negro defendants are under death sentences and are held in condemned row at Kilby penitentiary here pending appeals. The seven others are in Jefferson County Jail at Birmingham.

Knight Goes To Tennessee With Extradition Plea

Return Of Two Men Held At Nashville Sought For Trial On Bribery Charge They Will Resist

Advertiser

10-3-34

Woman Will Be Hearing Witness

Advertiser

Victoria Price To Testify In Plea For Extradition Of Two Alleged Bribers

10-4-34

NASHVILLE, TENN., Oct. 3.—(AP)— Victoria Price, star prosecution witness in the Scottsboro case, arrived from Huntsville tonight to testify tomorrow in an extradition hearing for two New Yorkers charged with bribery in connection with an alleged effort to sway her testimony.

Montgomery

HUNTSVILLE, ALA., Oct. 3.—(AP) — Mrs. Victoria Price, principal witness in the "Scottsboro attack case," left here today at 5 p.m. for Nashville, Tenn., where she plans to testify at an extradition hearing for two men held there on charges of attempting to bribe her to change her testimony in the case.

Chief of Police Henry Blakemore said Mrs. Price left with Policemen Herman Giles and Pete Talley and would testify at the extradition hearing before Gov. Hill McAlister at 2 p.m., tomorrow.

The men held by Nashville officers identified themselves as Daniel Swift and Sol Kone, New York attorneys. Both have announced they would fight extradition.

J. W. Pearson, who was jailed here on bribery attempt charges sworn to by Mrs. Price, sworn to a warrant for Swift's arrest. Swift and Kone were arrested at a Nashville hotel and almost immediately Alabama authorities started extradition proceedings.

Sheriff Ben Giles, of Madison County, and Atty.-Gen. Thomas E. Knight, Jr., are in Nashville to press Alabama's case against the men.

Mrs. Price told officers here she was offered $1,000 if she would go to Nashville and sign an affidavit repudiating her previous testimony against the nine negro defendants in the attack case.

Pearson was arrested in company with Mrs. Price on a highway leading to Nashville last week.

Mrs. Price and Ruby Bates accused 12 negroes of attacking them aboard a freight train in 1931 and there have been seven trials in the case. The Bates woman repudiated her testimony in a trial at Decatur, Ala., last year, but Mrs. Price steadfastly stuck to her version of the alleged attack.

Two of the nine negro defendants in the case are under death sentences and seven more are in Jefferson County Jail at Birmingham awaiting outcomes of appeal of the two condemned men.

Leibowitz Or Communists Must Quit Case, He Says

NEW YORK, Oct. 3. — (AP) — Samuel Liebowitz said tonight he would withdraw as counsel for the negro youths in the Scottsboro case "unless all communists are removed from the defense."

The well known trial lawyer said the International Labor Defense had hampered his efforts to free the negro youths.

"I believe," he said of his intention to resign, "I am acting in the best interest of my clients, of whose innocence I am certain today as when I took up their cases."

"The events of the past week in Alabama," said Liebowitz, "have convinced me there is no other course left open. My defense has been hampered by mysterious moves behind the scenes by the International Labor Defense.

"I know nothing of the activities of the two men from the International Labor Defense who were arrested in Nashville, charged with attempting to bribe Victoria Price. The defense needed no such help. If anything, the developments referred to have dealt a foul blow to the Scottsboro defendants."

Advertiser

Leibowitz charged that while he had given his services free, "the communists have raised huge sums of money by the exploitation of this case through paid admission mass meetings throughout the country and kindred forms of lucrative ballyhoo."

10-4-34

He said he did not propose to have "myself or my clients used any longer to provide funds for parades to city hall to disconcert the mayor of our city or for similar expeditions to Washington to embarrass the President."

Montgomery

"Until all secret maneuverings, ballyhoo, mass pressure, and communist methods are removed from the case, I can no longer continue," he asserted.

"I am not deserting the Scottsboro boys. I have given of my best and am prepared to do so to the end that the Scottsboro boys shall not die."

Lynchings-1933

Discussions.

Alabama.

4650

Lynchings - 1934
&
Legal Punishment for Rape.

Scottsboro Defense Plea To Court For Special Sitting On Case Denied

Advertiser
9-2-'34
Montgomery, Ala.

A majority of the justices of the Alabama Supreme Court, now in recess, following a conference at the Capitol yesterday denied request of defense counsel for the holding of a special term of the court for the purpose of ruling on applications for rehearing in the cases of Heywood Patterson and Clarence Norris, two of the seven negro "Scottsboro case" defendants.

The action taken was on the ground that there is no occasion for calling a special session of the court to pass on the applications, and that the exigencies of the situation do not demand or require it. Ruling on the rehearing applications will, therefore, have to await the reconvening of the court in regular session on Oct. 1.

Request for the special convening of the State's highest tribunal was made by attorneys for the two negroes so as to avoid delay in the taking of appeals to the U. S. Supreme Court in the event rehearings were denied. No objection was made to the proposal by Atty. Gen. Knight, who has prosecuted these two and other Scottsboro negroes, as it is his desire that they all be finally disposed of before expiration next January of his term of office.

Patterson appealed to the Alabama Supreme Court from his third, and Norris from his second conviction in the Morgan Circuit Court, of criminally assaulting two young white women near Scottsboro in March, 1931. Both negroes were sentenced to death. Later, the Supreme Court, affirming the trial court's judgments, set Friday, Aug. 31, as the date for execution of the condemned.

Applications for rehearing were thereafter filed by defense counsel, automatically suspending carrying out of the death sentences until these applications were ruled on. While they were still pending the Supreme Court, in accordance with statutory provision, recessed until Oct. 1.

The other five defendants will not be placed on trial, it is understood, until the cases of Patterson and Norris have been finally disposed of.

THEY SHALL NOT DIE, CRY 3,000 AT RED MEETING

Journal and Guide

Scottsboro Youths Pledged Aid After

Herndon Speaks

9-7-'34
Norfolk Va.

NEW YORK, N. Y. — Three thousand Negro and white workers and intellectuals of Harlem gave an enthusiastic, vociferous and hearty greeting to Angelo Herndon, Negro unemployed leader taken out of the prison in Atlanta on bail raised by the International Labor Defense, when Herndon made his first public appearance since his arrival there at a mass meeting at Rockland Palace, 155th and Eighth Ave., Wednesday night.

Standing and singing and shouting in a body as a group of friends, Negro and white, bore Herndon into the hall and up the center aisle to the stage, the thousands who jammed Rockland Palace cheered themselves hoarse in greeting the heroic 20-year-old youth, a victim of archaic Georgia law.

The mass greetings was repeated later when Herndon was introduced and made an address calling upon Negro and white workers, native and foreign born, to unite and fight against starvation, against war, against fascism, and for full power to the workers.

Working Class Symbol

"They can send me to the electric chair, they can rake my body," Herndon told his thousands of admirers, "but they can not break my revolutionary spirit. The Southern ruling class thought they had just another 'nigger' case to deal with and dispose of quickly. But they discovered they had to take notice of the millions of protests that came in from the masses all over the world mobilized by the International Labor Defense, the League of Struggle for Negro right and the Communist Party. Angelo Herndon as one man means litle. Angelo Herndon as a representative of the organized, militant working class is a symbol they can not defeat."

Herndon pointed out the close connection between his own case and the case of the nine innocent Scottsboro boys whom Alabama is trying hard "to burn."

"They say Angelo Herndon shall go to the sure death of the chain gang," he declared. "They say that the Scottsboro boys shall die. Their brother fascists say that Ernst Thælmann, courageous leader of the German working class, shall die. But we, the workers, reply —"

Before he could finish that sentence, thousands of throats shouted in unison: "They shall not die!"

Leibowitz Sees Future Of U. S. Bound to Boys

Amsterdam News

Scottsboro Defense Counsel, Back From Trip to Europe, Ready to Get Back in Fight

By T. R. POSTON.

9-1-'34
Birmingham Reporter

"They won't die."

The manner in which he uttered it—calmly, dispassionately, almost wearily—lifted the statement above the sphere of one man's opinion, fervent hope or earnest conviction. It became a statement of fact, indisputable, incontrovertible, undeniable. "They won't die."

The speaker was Samuel S. Leibowitz. He was sitting in his forty-second floor Broadway office Wednesday morning, three hours after his return on the Conte Di Savoia from a ten weeks vacation in Europe. The "they" of whom he spoke were, of course, the nine Scottsboro boys.

"You and I," he continued, "are too close to the picture. We are too much influenced by our immediate contacts. We lack the historical perspective necessary to view the whole panorama. We sat in the courtroom. We looked into the faces of the jurors. We both hoped—when we knew that there was no hope—that those twelve men would for once rise above the forces that had shaped them. And when they didn't, well——" he shrugged, "we were warped, warped by our emotions in spite of ourselves.

"But the United States Supreme Court isn't in our position. Those judges realize that this case is so much more than the fate of nine innocent black boys, so much more than the fate of the Negro in the South—it is, indeed, a case which involves the fate of America itself, of our ideals, our whole judicial system, our future, our ability to continue as a nation.

"At a time like this, when the forces of prejudice and hatred are sweeping the whole world, when every nation is staring belligerantly at its neighbors with its hand on its scabbard (and I've just seen it in every country I've visited)—at a time like this, the Supreme Court justices must realize that in deciding upon those boys, they are deciding whether we will emulate the disgraceful actions of others or whether——"

Amsterdam News
9-1-'34

The 'phone rang. It was Joseph R. Brodsky, chief counsel of the International Labor Defense. Joe Brodsky, the clever Communist lawyer, who sees in the Scottsboro and similar cases the inevitable destruction of our whole system of government. Joe Brodsky, greeting Sam Leibowitz, the brilliant Broadway barrister to whom the Scottsboro case opened a new vista and gave a new meaning to the profession to which he had pledged his life.

Memphis Tenn

The two men shouted their greetings to each other, these two men, miles apart in philosophy yet inseparably bound by chains forged around the ankles of nine young Negroes in Alabama. Chains which had rattled loudly in a Decatur courtroom many months ago when state and county officials had flung high the banner of prejudice and ranted openly of "Jew money from New York."

They asked about families, spoke about the banquet which was to be given Leibowitz the next night at the Park Central Hotel, mentioned William L. Patterson, I. L. D. secretary, who is now in Russia and who had recently mailed a card, which even then was laying on the Broadway attorney's desk, expressing regret that the two had not been able to meet when Leibowitz was in Moscow. They made plans for an early conference to discuss the famed case which will be reconsidered by the Alabama Supreme Court in the near future. Then Leibowitz turned back to the interviewer.

"On my return trip on the Conte De Savoia," he said, "I discussed the case with a group of fellow passengers." He named six men whose names rank high in the judicial, diplomatic and financial circles of this country. Men who are as prominent abroad as they are here. "They have the perspective our immediate contact has denied us. They realize even more than we the significance of this case. And they know, even as you and I, that the boys won't die. They can't be allowed to. It would mean too much."

Did he hear much about the Scottsboro case in Europe—in France, England, Sweden, Italy, the Soviet Union—in any of the countries he and Mrs. Leibowitz visited?

"Oh, they know of the case. Who doesn't? And they are closely watching its progress. But the people of each country have their own problems. They are faced with so many dangers of their own. And war is almost inevitable. Did you read what Mussolini said the other day?"

The Leibowitz didn't visit Germany. But what of Hitler?

"Hitler is bound to go out—feet first. The German people can't stand the economic pressure which he has brought upon them. But who can say how or when he goes out. Emotional as he is, who can predict the method he may choose for his exit. Suppose he should decide to go out in a blaze of glory. What if he should choose war to exile as a last gesture?"

What is his opinion of the present status of the Scottsboro case?

"I've been out of contact with everything for almost two months. But the immediate status doesn't matter so much. Whether or not the boys had a fair trial, whether the defense filed its briefs too early or too late, whether or not prejudice was introduced at the hearings—these things are but side issues. The fundamental fact is that Negroes, as American citizens, were denied their rights guaranteed under the constitution when they were not allowed to sit on that Alabama jury—and that is the bulwark upon which rests the fate of nine boys, the Negro in this country, and the future of the country itself. And because of this, I tell you: "They won't die."

Albany-Decatur, Ala. Daily
August 29, 1934

New Fight Is Planned To Save Negro's Life His Attorney States

Pardons Board Will Be Attacked In The Courts

A new fight to save the life of Tom Brown, negro, under sentence of death for attacking Mrs. George Dugger here, will be made, it was announced today by J. N. Powell, of Hartselle, attorney for the condemned man.

This new fight may involve the question of whether or not "representatives" of members of the state board of pardons and paroles may sit at a hearing.

Mr. Powell stated he planned to ask for a rehearing of the case by the Alabama supreme court, which recently affirmed the verdict. This probably would act as an automatic stay of execution now scheduled for September 14.

However, Mr. Powell has in mind instigating habeas corpus proceedings in behalf of Brown to halt the execution. The proceedings would be based on the contention, he said, that the board of pardons which reviewed Brown's case and turned his application for clemency down was unconstitutional.

He pointed out that the constitution of Alabama povides that the board shall be composed of the state auditor, the secretary of state and the attorney general to consult with the govenor, but that when Brown's case was heard, John Brandon, state auditor, was not present in person but was "represented" by a man not authorized by the constitution to sit.

Brown was convicted in the Morgan county circuit court and on appeal the sentence was affirmed by the supreme court. The board of pardons unanimously declined to recommend clemency and later Governor Miller announced he would let the sentence stand, fixing the date of execution as September 14.

Mrs. Dugger identified Brown as her assailant, stating that he menaced her with a knife.

LAST MINUTE REPRIEVE IS GRANTED TO NEGRO

Governor Miller Snatches Doomed Man From Chair

By United Press.

MONTGOMERY, Sept. 14. — Thomas Brown, Decatur negro sentenced to die at midnight last night for an alleged attack on a Decatur white woman, was being prepared for the electric chair when word was brought to him of Governor Miller's last minute reprieve.

Brown was dressed in prison whites, with his head shaved and left trouser leg split to receive the electrodes of the chair, when he received word of the reprieve.

Governor Miller granted a 30-day respite—until Oct. 12—at the request of Circuit Judge James E. Horton and Sheriff A. W. Davis of Morgan county, who said Brown's attorneys had found new evidence in the case which he wished to present to the governor.

World's Famous Writers Protest Scottsboro Case

NEW YORK.—The names of two of China's outstanding writers appear among the 17 signatures of famous authors from nine countries attached to a declaration of protest against the holding of the Scottsboro boys received here by the International Labor Defense.

"We will expose lynch terror in words of flame and fire," is the pledge to which the following names are signed: Paul Nizan, Andre Malraux, Aragon, Vlad Pozner, Jean Richard Bloch, France; Rafael Alberti, M. Teresa Leon, Spain; D. Glinos, Costa Varnalis, Greece; Jose Da Vaca, Cuba; Emi Siao, Hou Banchi, China; L. Fischer, U. S. A.; N. V. Neswal, Czechoslovakia; Otto Luihn, Norway; Moa Martinson, Harry Martinson, Sweden.

Following is the text of the declaration which these writers signed:

"The Scottsboro boys have been held in prison in the shadow of the electric chair for over three years. They may be attacked by the lynch mob and murdered by hanging or burning any day. They have been three times condemned to death. But public opinion, aroused by the world protest campaign organized by the International Labor Defense, has so far brought the murderous plans of the Negro-hating capitalist landowners to naught.

"In view of the lynch terror raging in the United States, we revolutionary writers cannot stand by in silence. We cannot peacefully look on while the ruling white classes drive the innocent Scottsboro boys to their death.

"We appeal to the writers and intellectuals of all countries who have already rendered the cause of humanity such invaluable service by exposing the horrors of the German and Austrian fascism. We appeal to all those who placed themselves at the service of the mighty movement which snatched Dimitroff, Popoff and Taneff from certain death in the grip of the indescribable Hitler and Goering regime of terror. Exert every effort to make the lynch terror in the U. S. A. a thing of disgust in the eyes of all decent human beings.

"We will expose lynch terror in words of flame and fire.

"We protest against the monstrous trial which has framed up the innocent Negro Scottsboro boys.

"We demand their immediate unconditional and safe release."

BIRMINGHAM, ALA.
NEWS
JUL 28 1934

Samuel Leibowitz As Seen By A Negro Editor

According to George S. Schuyler, a well known Negro newspaper editor of Pittsburgh, the effects of the participation of the International Labor Defense in the Scottsboro case may be summarized about as follows: "Sam Leibowitz has the reputation; the lads have the death cell." The current number of *The American Spectator*, a rather wild and often injudicious monthly newspaper published in New York by a queer group of writers, including Theodore Dreiser and George Jean Nathan, carries the Pittsburgh Negro's vituperative denunciation of what he considers to be the intrusion of the Communists into the Scottsboro trials.

Friday morning *The Montgomery Advertiser* printed a careful digest of the article. Alabama readers will be particularly interested in the points of view expressed by the Pittsburgh newspaper man, who is closely identified with the more moderate and respectable Northern organizations concerned with advancing the best interests of the Negro race in the North, as well as in the South. The full text of *The Advertiser's* summary follows:

In the August issue of *The American Spectator*, George S. Schuyler, Negro newspaper man of Pittsburgh, makes the charge that the Scottsboro boys have been *Jonahed*. "The boys have been afflicted with Samuel Leibowitz and chained to the Communist chariot. A clever Southern or Northern white lawyer might have saved them," he thinks, "as a clever Southern Negro saved the black sharecroppers of Elaine, Ark., sentenced to die on the more serious charge of conspiring to massacre the whites right after the World War. If the Scottsboro boys do not suffer the fate of Sacco and Vanzetti, they will probably rot in prison like Mooney, a tragic memorial to megalomania, negrophobia and propaganda."

"Leibowitz," he continued, "is serving the Scottsboro boys without fee, and regardless of what their fate may be, the effort is far from being a total loss to him. It has lifted him from the category of a modest little Manhattan lawyer to that of an internationally famous attorney, a defender of the oppressed, a hero of the embattled proletariat."

"A really shrewd lawyer," Schuyler points out, "not intent on hogging the limelight, would have first built up good will, respect and admiration. Instead, Leibowitz proceeded to make the case a sectional as well as a racial one by challenging the fitness of the Alabama courts and attacking the exclusion of Negroes from juries. Even worse," he charges, "was the senseless parading of the past of the two allegedly raped wantons. In proving that the white girls belonged to a vast army of part-time prostitutes that swarms in the Southern mill towns, Leibowitz only strengthened the crackers' determination to fry the blackamoors."

"It is tragic that Communist trickery and bigotry eliminated Clarence Darrow from the case," says Schuyler. "He would have sized up the situation realistically, dumped the methods and mannerisms found successful in Manhattan courtrooms, and proceeded to play on the childish Southern sentimentality. Then," he thinks, "the accused would each have been given a long sentence as is the Southern custom in order to save face, and, when the crackers had gone back to their corn liquor, the boys would have been turned out on the street. It has happened scores of times before. It would have happened in the Scottsboro case, but," reminds *The American Spectator* contributor, "Sam Leibowitz was the chief counsel. He has the reputation; the lads have the death cell."

It is more than likely that Alabamians, in general, will agree that the deliberately offensive tactics employed by Samuel Leibowitz in the Scottsboro trials did nothing to help the cause of the Negro defendants. As to whether Clarence Darrow, by "playing upon the childish Southern sentimentality," would have been appreciably more successful, there will be a question in the minds of most of the natives of this state. Schuyler's back-sighted confidence in Clarence Darrow, of course, is due in part to the fact that the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People at one time attempted to obtain Darrow's services in the case.

But, in spite of the rather savage language in which his diatribe is couched, the Pittsburgh editor has hit on an interpretation which could be substantiated by plenty of evidence not specifically mentioned in the article. As Schuyler says, Samuel Leibowitz has been enabled through his participation in the Scottsboro case to leap into world-wide notoriety as a "champion of the oppressed" and a daring crusader for "human liberty." But what the New York lawyer has achieved for himself unfortunately has not as yet greatly helped the plight of the Negro prisoners whom he was hired to defend.

Alabama

4651

Lynchings-1934
6
Legal Punishment for Rape.

4651

Nation-Wide Scottsboro-Herndon Drive to Be Launched at N. Y. Conference Aug. 8

Daily Worker 8-3-34

NEW YORK.—One million signatures calling for the freedom of the Scottsboro boys and Angelo Herndon and the enactment of the Bill for Negro Rights will be the goal of a broad campaign to be launched nationally at a mass conference to be held here August 8.

Announcement of the call for a series of Emergency Scottsboro-Herndon conferences to be held all over the country was made here today by the International Labor Defense, League of Struggle for Negro Rights and the National Committee for Defense of Political Prisoners.

The New York city-wide conferences Wednesday evening, August 8, starting at 7:30 p. m. at St. Paul's Church, 249 West 132nd Street.

Noted Negro and white workers, intellectuals and sympathizers will attend the August 8 conference which is expected to show the way for the rest of the country in the mobilization of 1,000,000 signatures to the largest petition of the kind ever assembled by workers in this country.

Churches, clubs, fraternal organizations, professional groups as well as mass organizations have already indicated they will send accredited delegates to the August 8 conference. Some of the organizations, who have no meetings scheduled between now and August 8, will be represented by a few of their active members and officers. The general public will also be admitted to listen to the deliberations of the conference.

T. U. U. C. Endorses Call

Calling attention to the nation-wide campaign of terror against workers, the special terror measures against Negroes, and LaGuardia's fascist attacks on workers and especially on Negroes, the Trade Union Unity Council has sent out a call urging all unions affiliated to it to take part in the conference. The call signed by Andrew Overgaard, general secretary, says in part:

"The Trade Union Unity Council calls on all its affiliated organizations to immediately raise this question in each and every trade board, in each and every shop, and to send its official delegates to this conference against lynching and fascist frame-ups. The T. U. U. C. calls on all its unions to take this communication in the most serious manner and be certain to be represented by at least two delegates from each union in order that this may be one of the most powerful united front demonstrations against the terror and for the freedom of the Scottsboro boys and Angelo Herndon."

The organizations sponsoring the conference have called on all other organizations which have not yet done so to elect their representatives to the conference immediately.

A call for a fight for the liberation of Ernst Thaelmann by all who are behind the struggle for freedom of Angelo Herndon and the Scottsboro boys will be made at the August 8 Emergency Scottsboro-Herndon conference.

Thaelman was foremost among the European workers to fight for the liberation of the Scottsboro Nine. Two years ago, Thaelmann called upon 150,000 German fellow workers to organize a campaign for the liberation of the Scottsboro boys. In cities all over Germany, demonstrations insisting that the Scottsboro boys shall not die were held in answer to the call of Ernst Thaelmann.

Following the August 8 conference here, similar conferences will be staged all over the country. When this series of mass conferences is over, hundreds of thousands will have been drawn into the campaign for the liberation of the Scottsboro boys and Angelo Herndon, for the enactment and enforcement of the bill of Negro rights, against Jim Crowism, for the fight against "local Scottsboro," and for the fight against lynching.

Petitions for the enactment and enforcement of the Bill for Negro Rights and Suppression of Lynching, and calling for the freedom of Angelo Herndon and the Scottsboro boys, will be distributed through the delegates to attend the New York conference August 8 as well as those who will attend the subsequent conferences all over the country. The goal is to get at least 1,000,000 signatures. Contributions to be made by all the signers of these petitions will go to make up the $15,000 defense fund needed to fight for the appeals for Angelo Herndon and the Scottsboro boys.

A feature of the mass conferences will be their preparation for tremendous demonstrations all over the country on Aug. 22. That day is the anniversary of the murders of Sacco and Vanzetti. The day have been set aside as National Scottsboro-Herndon day.

Negroes' Counsel Want Early Action

Advertiser 8-5-34 Montgomery, Ala.

Counsel for Haywood Patterson and Clarence Norris, two of the seven negro "Scottsboro case" defendants will, in the immediate future, it is understood, request the holding of a special term of the Alabama Supreme Court which is now in recess, to pass upon applications for rehearing filed with that tribunal after it had affirmed judgments of the Morgan Circuit Court where both negroes were convicted of criminally assaulting two young white women, and sentenced to death.

The defense attorneys desire a ruling on these applications which had the effect of staying execution of the death sentence which was set for Aug. 31, until they could be passed on, so that in the event the ruling is an adverse one, appeals can be taken to the Supreme Court of the United States at once, it is learned, and wish this ruling to be made if possible before the State Supreme Court reconvenes in regular session on Oct. 1.

Atty. Gen. Thomas E. Knight, Jr., who has prosecuted the cases throughout will not, it is understood, oppose the calling of the special session if it is requested, as it is his wish to dispose of these and the five other pending "Scottsboro cases" before his term of office expires next January.

Samuel Leibowitz As Seen By A Negro Editor

According to George S. Schuyler, a well known Negro newspaper editor of Pittsburgh, the effects of the participation of the International Labor Defense in the Scottsboro case may be summarized about as follows: "Sam Leibowitz has the reputation; the lads have the death cell." The current number of *The American Spectator*, a rather wild and often injudicious monthly newspaper published in New York by a queer group of writers, including Theodore Dreiser and George Jean Nathan, carries the Pittsburgh Negro's vituperative denunciation of what he considers to be the intrusion of the Communists into the Scottsboro trials.

Friday morning *The Montgomery Advertiser* printed a careful digest of the article. Alabama readers will be particularly interested in the points of view expressed by the Pittsburgh newspaper man, who is closely identified with the more moderate and respectable Northern organizations concerned with advancing the best interests of the Negro race in the North, as well as in the South. The full text of *The Advertiser's* summary follows:

In the August issue of *The American Spectator*, George S. Schuyler, Negro newspaper man of Pittsburgh, makes the charge that the Scottsboro boys have been *Jonahed*. "The boys have been afflicted with Samuel Leibowitz and chained to the Communist chariot. A clever Southern or Northern white lawyer might have saved them," he thinks, "as a clever Southern Negro saved the black sharecroppers of Elaine, Ark., sentenced to die on the more serious charge of conspiring to massacre the whites right after the World War. If the Scottsboro boys do not suffer the fate of Sacco and Vanzetti, they will probably rot in prison like Mooney, a tragic memorial to megalomania, negrophobia and propaganda."

"Leibowitz," he continued, "is serving the Scottsboro boys without fee, and regardless of what their fate may be, the effort is far from being a total loss to him. It has lifted him from the category of a modest little Manhattan lawyer to that of an internationally famous attorney, a defender of the oppressed, a hero of the embattled proletariat."

"A really shrewd lawyer," Schuyler points out, "not intent on hogging the limelight, would have first built up good will, respect and admiration. Instead, Leibowitz proceeded to make the case a sectional as well as a racial one by challenging the fitness of the Alabama courts and attacking the exclusion of Negroes from juries. Even worse," he charges, "was the senseless parading of the past of the two allegedly raped wantons. In proving that the white girls belonged to a vast army of part-time prostitutes that swarms in the Southern mill towns, Leibowitz only strengthened the crackers' determination to fry the blackamoors."

"It is tragic that Communist trickery and bigotry eliminated Clarence Darrow from the case," says Schuyler. "He would have sized up the situation realistically, dumped the methods and mannerisms found successful in Manhattan courtrooms, and proceeded to play on the childish Southern sentimentality. Then," he thinks, "the accused would each have been given a long sentence as is the Southern custom in order to save face, and, when the crackers had gone back to their corn liquor, the boys would have been turned out on the street. It has happened scores of times before. It would have happened in the Scottsboro case, but," reminds *The American Spectator* contributor, "Sam Leibowitz was the chief counsel. He has the reputation; the lads have the death cell."

It is more than likely that Alabamians, in general, will agree that the deliberately offensive tactics employed by Samuel Leibowitz in the Scottsboro trials did nothing to help the cause of the Negro defendants. As to whether Clarence Darrow, by "playing upon the childish Southern sentimentality," would have been appreciably more successful, there will be a question in the minds of most of the natives of this state. Schuyler's back-sighted confidence in Clarence Darrow, of course, is due in part to the fact that the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People at one time attempted to obtain Darrow's services in the case.

But, in spite of the rather savage language in which his diatribe is couched, the Pittsburgh

Augusta, Ga., Chronicle
August 3, 1934

News, Views and Reviews

SAMUEL LEIBOWITZ AS SEEN BY A NEGRO EDITOR

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—Birmingham News.

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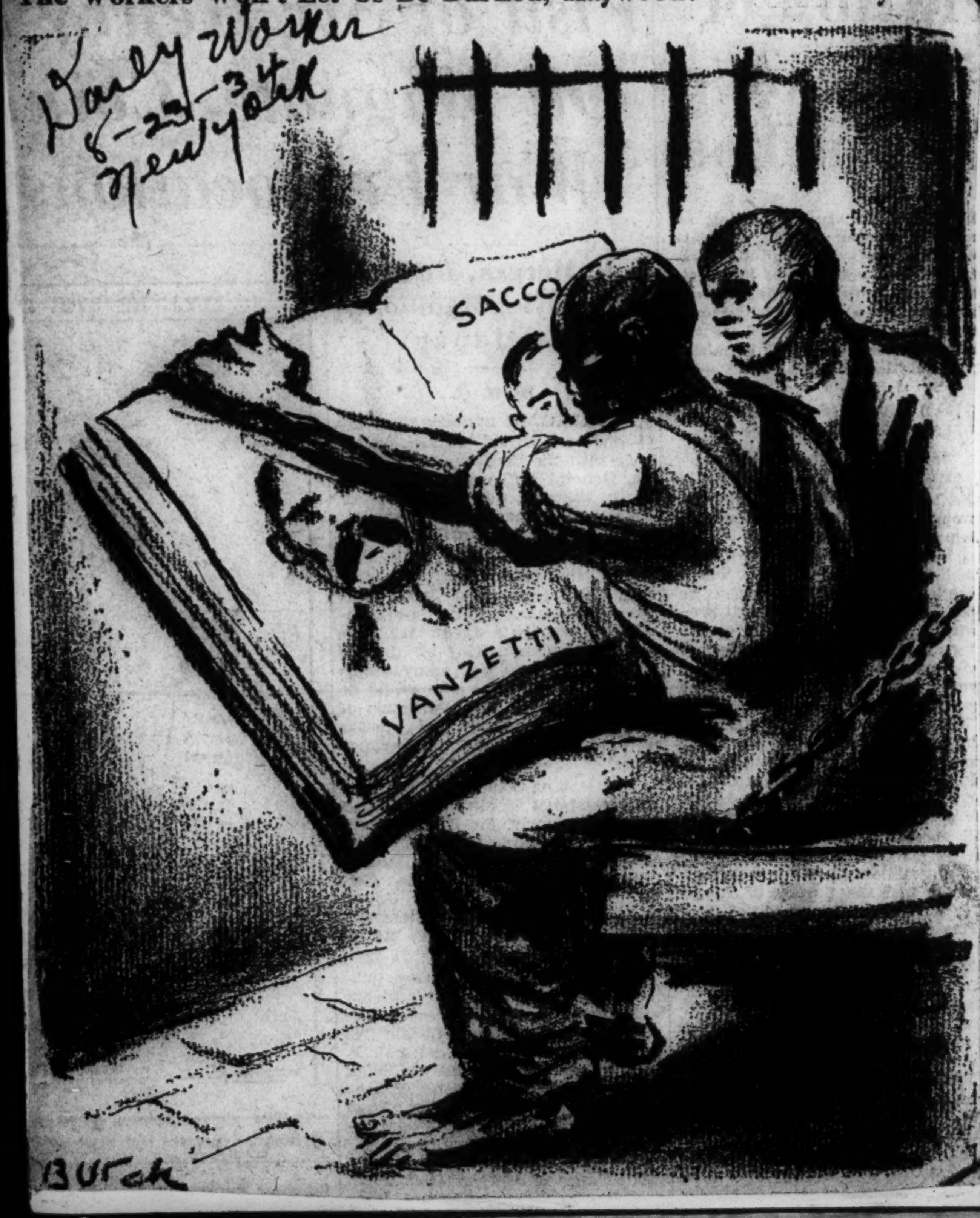
"The Workers Won't Let Us Be Burned, Haywood!" By Burck



Daily Worker
8-23-34
New York

Alabama

4652

Lynchings-1934
Legal Punishment for Rape.

Scottsboro Mothers Will See Roosevelt Mothers Day, May 13

Daily Worker
5-8-34 New York, N.Y.

Negro Lawyer to Investigate Charges of Torture

NEW YORK—Speaking of the trip of the five Scottsboro mothers to Washington to interview the President on Mothers' Day, Joseph Brodsky, representative of the International Labor Defense in the case, said, "In the name of Osmond K. Fraenkel, retained as lawyer in charge of the appeal, and Joseph K. Brodsky, attorney for the International Labor Defense, we feel that this is particularly the case in which the President of the United States should exert his influence as chief executive of the United States to see that justice is done to these innocent victims of race prejudice."

Brodsky is scheduled to speak at the send-off for the five mothers on Friday, May 11, at St. Nicholas Arena, 69 W. 56th St.

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NEW YORK—Benjamin J. Davis, Jr., Negro lawyer of Atlanta, Ga., retained as chief counsel in the Angelo Herndon case, has left for Birmingham to visit the Scottsboro boys in the Jefferson County jail, it has been announced by the International Labor Defense.

He will make an investigation into the activities of the leadership of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People and their connection with the present torture of the boys who are held in solitary confinement.

Pickens, field secretary of the N.A.A.C.P., has denied that he was in Alabama, despite the identification of him by one of the boys whose name is withheld to avoid special persecution of him by the guards.

Since this first visit and since the denial of the charges of the I.L.D. by Walter White, N.A.A.C.P. head, and others, other agents of the N.A.A.C.P. have visited the boys to demand that they repudiate the International Labor Defense and turn the case over to them.

Telegrams and resolutions demanding the freedom of the boys should be sent to President Roosevelt and Governor B. M. Miller at Montgomery, Ala. These demands should call for the immediate end to the torture of these boys.

Negro Mothers Off Today For Washington

Daily Worker

Roosevelt's Secretary Denies Request for Interview

5-12-34

NEW YORK.—The five Scottsboro mothers and a small committee representing the International Labor Defense prepared to leave early this afternoon for Washington to see President Roosevelt in spite of the refusal of their request for an interview.

Birmingham, Ala.

The mothers will demand that Roosevelt intercede to free their innocent boys who are being kept in the Alabama prison.

The I.L.D. received a telegram from Roosevelt's secretary yesterday, after they had sent many communications including a long distance telephone call which read as follows:

"The case to which you refer. . is one over which the State of Alabama has jurisdiction. I must therefore respectfully decline your request."

The request of the I.L.D. was just for an interview with the president. In Washington a small group will accompany the Scottsboro mothers to the White House.

A mass send-off meeting to the mothers was held last night in the St. Nicholas Arena. A full account of the meeting will appear in Monday's Daily Worker.

Roosevelt Silent on Scottsboro

Daily Worker
5-10-34
New York

Refuses to Grant Interview to Scottsboro Mothers

NEW YORK.—Stern silence is being kept by the President of the United States on the letters and telegrams sent him by the International Labor Defense requestng an interview for the five Scottsboro mothers on Mothers' Day at the national capital.

The mothers, however, will be in Washington on Sunday, May 13, and will sit on the doorstep of the White House until they are seen.

Friday night they will make their last appearance in New York city, at a send-off given them by the International Labor Defense at the St. Nicholas Arena, 69 W. 66th St., at 8 p.m.

Among the speakers will be the lawyers in the case, Joseph R. Brodsky, Osmond K. Fraenkel, Samuel Leibowitz; noted writers such as John Wexley, author of "They Shall Not Die"; Grace Lumpkin, author of "To Make My Bread," as well as the main speakers of the evening, the five mothers, and Ruby Bates.

Albany-Decatur, Ala. Daily
May 4. 1934

The Same Story

The Huntsville Times thinks ignorance the cause for a recent outburst on the part of Dartmouth College students in connection with the "Scottsboro Case," The Times saying:

"A delegation of some 200 Dartmouth students have wired Governor Miller, demanding 'immediate dismissal' of the negro defendants in the Scottsboro case.

"They based their 'demand' upon a section of Judge Horton's decision on appeal in the first trial, in which he made reference to evidence preponderating in favor of the defendants.

"These over-eager and enthusiastic young college men need a few lessons apparently in the most elemental facts about court procedure.

"They seem ignortant of the fact that Governor Miller has absolutely no power or authority with respect to freeing the defendants.

"Their case has not been passed upon by the state supreme court, or, in case the verdict of the lower court is upheld there, appeal has not been taken to the U. S. supreme court, where their attorney has announced he will carry it.

"Governor Miller has nothing in the world to do with the case, and will not until it reaches him, after it has gone through all the courts, in a plea for pardon, or for a commutation of sentence.

"These young Dartmouth students should keep their mouths shut, and refrain from resolutions to Alabama's governor, until they learn a little more about court procedure.

"Their ignorance reflects upon them and their college."

Ignorance is the basis for most of the foolishness that drifts into this section of the South from the North and East. If the people of those sections were given the facts by the newspapers of those sections, there would not be so much foolishness on the part of the people. They don't know the actual conditions in the South and they cannot know such conditions, a prejudiced press makes it impossible for them to know the facts.

SUFFOLK, VA.
NEWS HERALD
APR 24 1934

MOVE FOR PUBLIC SYMPATHY

Samuel D. Leibowitz, of New York, chief counsel for seven Negro defendants in the now celebrated "Scottsboro case," in a statement widely published in the press of the country, charged these prisoners were "placed in solitary confinement on trumped up charges, nearly starved and threatened with death by one of the guards." The men are confined in the jail at Birmingham for trial on charges of having assaulted two white women, one of whom has since repudiated her first statement that they were mistreated.

Directly upon receipt of their attorney's complaint the Jefferson county grand jury made a thorough investigation of the matter, calling the men themselves to testify. They told the jury they received the same food as other prisoners in the county jail and there was evidence to convince the jury that the other items in the complaint were groundless. The men become involved in a fight among themselves, it appears, and so were separated for their own good and the peace of the prison community.

We have no doubt there was complaint, probably largely justifiable, against both the amount and quality of the food served them. It is known to be notoriously bad and pitifully scant and the farther south one goes the worse it gets. But there is rarely any discrimination against prisoners, all sharing alike in what they get. But even then the fare is probably far better and more abundant than that to which the complainants have been accustomed. Public welfare agencies, however, would be rendering a good service if they turned their attention to this phase of prison life and that goes for Virginia too.

But there is a faint suspicion that Mr. Liebowitz was more concerned about other things than the immediate circumstances against which he protested. Making the matter public in the press of the north was doubtless a move for sympathy and after that comes money. Be it remembered, he is employed in the defense of the accused Negroes by an organization which depends on financial support by the public. It's a good way to stir up interest and shake down the shekels.

Unfortunately, the impression still prevails among many good and kindly people in other sections of the country that the colored man is badly treated in the south and that justice is denied him in the courts as well as in other citizenship relation. Of course it is absurd and a gross libel of the south, but millions do not know it and there's the rub. Extreme cases of cruelty, such as lynchings, are accepted as the rule rather than the exception. The truth is, not one man in a hundred in the south approves of mob-murder. Such sensational publicity as attributed to the New York lawyer will not improve the situation or relations between the two sections.

UNION CITY, N. J.
HUDSON DISPATCH
JAN 6 1934

Alabama Resents Kaltenborn

Most people in the North will be surprised at the action of the State of Alabama, through its Attorney General, in seeking action on the part of the Federal Radio Commission against H. V. Kaltenborn in his comment that it was just as impossible for some persons in Germany to get a fair trial as it was for the Scottsboro boys to receive a fair trial in Alabama.

Does the Attorney General mean to give the impression that the people of his state really think a Negro gets a fair trial? Or does he mean that he wants the people of the country to believe it?

President 'Not In' to Mothers Of Framed 9

5-14-34

White House Guards Turn Away Mothers of Scottsboro Boys

By MARGUERITE YOUNG
(Daily Worker Washington Bureau)

WASHINGTON, May 13.—On this Mothers Day, set aside by the ruling class to venerate its mothers, the mothers of five Scottsboro boys went to the White House to ask President Roosevelt to intervene on behalf of the working class prisoners threatened with death on a charge the falseness of which rings around the world.

They were accompanied by about 25 individuals and representatives of organizations, Negro and white, middle class as well as working class. They were turned away by a guard in U. S. naval uniform who met them at a locked gate and told them he didn't know where the President was.

MRS. MAMIE WILLIAMS

One of the five mothers of the nine innocent Scottsboro boys who yesterday visited Roosevelt to demand the release of their sons

For two weeks they have been requesting a Mother's Day interview by letter, telegram and telephone call to President Roosevelt and Mrs. Franklin D. Roosevelt.

They left the White House—but to return tomorrow morning and wait until the White House received them. They left at the White House today this plea:

"This day has been set aside as Mother's Day. Therefore we come to you as mothers, suffering the greatest pain, because our innocent sons are made to endure the most terrible tortures. Though guilty of no crime, they are held in dark cells, with the electric chair staring them in the face.

"It is now three years that our sons have been so forcibly separated from us. Our boys were framed on a terrible charge of which they are innocent. What can be the reasons for such a crime against our boys, when they have been proven innocent? It is the prejudice and oppression under which the Negro people suffer.

Ask Roosevelt to Act

"Mr. President, we ask you to act in behalf of our sons. We ask that you, as the chief executive of this country, as one who is supposed to take an interest in the welfare of the people of this country, to see that justice is done to all alike. Speak out against the murderous persecution of our children!

"Your word would have great weight throughout the land. Millions of people in America and other countries have already raised their voices to protest against this terrible wrong. Men in high places throughout the world have spoken for the freedom of our boys because they believe in their innocence. . . . Will you not, as President of the United States, speak and do everything in your power to free our wronged and tortured sons?"

Vets Accompany Mothers

With the mothers marched seven Negroes in soldiers' uniforms—veterans uniting in the Scottsboro cause. Also Madame Lillian Evanti, famous coloratura soprano who recently sang for the same President Roosevelt by special invitation, who said today: "I'm interested in life and justice as well as music." Also

Ruby Bates, the white Southern girl the Negroes were accused of attacking, was with the delegation also, as was Mrs. Mary Craik Speed, scion of a first family of Birmingham who has devoted her efforts to freeing the boys since she saw the trials; Mrs. Sara F. Stabler, of the Friends' Meeting House in Washington; Mrs. Mary Church Terill, first president of the National Association of Colored Women's Clubs; Mrs. Julia West Hamilton, president of a colored Y.W.C.A. club here; John P. Davis, head of the Joint Committee on National Recovery; Lieutenant F. R. Gaston and Lieutenant James H. McLean of Atlanta, Ga., the first representing Negro Veterans of the American World War Veterans,, an organization of Negroes denied admission to the American Legion; the second representing the Workers Ex-Servicemen's League. Stephen Black and L. Williams, Negro leaders of the International Labor Defense in Washington, were there, and so were Mrs. Sophie Ross of the Women's League. The committee was led by Richard Moore and Bernard Ades of the I.L.D.

After the Naval attache of the White House barred the group, Moore addressed them briefly on the sidewalk, and they went to the Y.W.C.A. headquarters and held a meeting. Then the mothers went downstairs to a room to rest. They had travelled all night from New York. They said they were tired and had the blues—but soon they were singing spirituals and declaring they would remain as long as necessary to see the President.

There was a piano in the room and several beds.

Mrs. Viola Montgomery, mother of Olen, now 20, went over and started to play. All the mothers sang:

"I shall not be moved—just like a tree planted by the waters, I shall not be moved."

Mrs. Mamie Williams, mother of Eugene, now 16, sang a new line to the tune: "We shall see the President—we shall not be moved. Just like a tree, standing by the water we shall not be moved."

Mrs. Ida Norris, mother of Clarence, 20, joined in the refrain and so did Mrs. Janie Patterson, mother of Heywood, 20. Mrs. Josephine Powell, mother of Ozzie, 16, lay on a bed and listened. She has been sick throughout the journey, thousands of miles from the boys in jail in Alabama, but she marched with the rest.

Richard Moore, addressing the meeting of the assembled committee, said:

"The President's absence is in line with the settled policy of the United States Government absolutely to aid the lynchers—to aid the butchery of the Scottsboro boys. If there be any doubt that President Roosevelt upholds the whole regime of oppression of the Negro people—consult his recent statement upholding the differentials against Negro workers under N. R. A. codes."

Two weeks ago the I. L. D. wrote President Roosevelt asking an audience. On May 9 they telegraphed. On May 11 they telephoned Marvin McIntyre, Roosevelt's Secretary. There was no definite answer. Friday they telegraphed Mrs. Roosevelt. No answer. Saturday a telegram from McIntyre said the case was under jurisdiction of the State of Alabama. Two secret service agents went to the I. L. D. office in New York yesterday and advised them to write some more letters instead of coming to Washington.

The President and Mrs. Roosevelt spent this afternoon yachting.

Chattanooga, Tenn. News
August 6, 1934

A Scottsboro Echo

LEADING Negroes of the country now realize that the Interational Labor Defense used the Scottsboro case for its own propaganda. George S. Schuyler, well-known Negro editor of Pittsburgh, remarkes laconically, "Sam Leibowitz has the reputation; the defendants have the death cell." In the *American Spectator*, Schuyler's views are printed.

The Montgomery *Advertiser* carries a summary of the article, as follows:

> In the August issue of the *American Spectator*, George S. Schyler, Negro newspaper man of Pittsburgh, makes the charge that the Scottsboro boys have been Jonahed. "The boys have been afflicted with Samuel Leibowitz and chained to the Communist chariot. A clever Southern or Northern white lawyer might have saved them," he thinks, "as a clever Southern Negro saved the black sharecroppers of Elaine, Ark,, sentenced to die on the more serious charge of conspiring to massacre the whites right after the World War. If the Scottsboro boys do not suffer the fate of Sacco and Vanzetti, they will probably rot in prison like Mooney, a tragic memorial to megalomania, negrophobia and propaganda."
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We pointed out repetedly that the entrance of the I. L. D. could not but involve the Scottsboro case in propaganda. Every effort has been made to make a cause celebre of the trial of the ignorant Negroes. Efforts of the bona fide Negro welfare organizations to take charge of the case were defeated, and Sam Leibowitz stirred up prejudice and busily secured every ounce of I. L. D. propaganda possible. As a result Sam Leibowitz secured the fame, or notoriety, and the defendants have the death cell.

Lynchings-1934
Legal Punishment for Rape.

Alabama

4653

TUCSON, ARIZ.
STAR
JUN 30 1934

IMPLICATIONS OF THE SCOTTSBORO CASE

The affirmation of their sentences by the Alabama supreme court means that the Scottsboro Negro boys will pay with their lives for the advancement of communism. Regardless of what happens to the boys the Communists will be the victors. If the boys should by some means escape execution, the Communists will claim that their influence saved them. If the boys lose, the Communists can claim that they alone offer the Negro escape from color prejudice.

The entire case shows how Communists seize on such cases not so much to further the cause of justice, as to enhance their own cause. These Negro boys are not Communists. They are just some young, ignorant, almost illiterate Alabama Negro boys who, had their cases been left to normal procedure, would probably escape with light sentences. They know nothing about Communism.

From the time that the New York Communists entered the case for the defense, the boys were doomed. Their conviction was due more to the entry of the Communists than to the actual evidence. The Alabama juries, which have heard the cases, probably brought in the death verdicts more as a means of expressing resentment against the interference of the Communists than of giving justice to the boys.

While of course a civilized people should not allow such motives to have anything to do with the administration of justice, especially where it means a matter of life and death, the fact that the Alabama juries did, shows how powerful passions are in the matter of government. The juries probably felt that they were duty bound not to succumb to the potential threat of this unwelcome outside interference.

Of course, in giving rein to their passions the jurors played into the hands of the Communists. Fair and impartial administration of justice is much more powerful in resisting Communism, than bold and passionate defiance that involves needlessly the lives of some ignorant Negro boys. When the poor and ignorant can be assured of fair and impartial justice, the foundations of our country and of our civilization are too secure to fear any assaults from the Communists.

Justice Costs Money

AN EDITORAL

Amsterdam News
7-14-34
New York, N.Y.

THE APPEAL for $30,000 to carry the Scottsboro case and that of Angelo Herndon to the United States Supreme Court should find every Negro above the age of ten ready to contribute his share toward this fight for social justice. Herndon, who was convicted of inciting Negroes to insurrection because he urged the jobless of Atlanta to organize, is ill in a Georgia prison and threatened with being sent to the chain gang. He may die before the appeal can be heard unless $15,000 cash bail is raised for his release. The plight of the Scottsboro boys needs no elaboration.

Desiring to do its bit toward raising funds for these battles in which the International Labor Defense is the spearhead, The Amsterdam News will receive contributions for its Scottsboro-Herndon Appeal Fund at the main office at 2293 Seventh avenue. Every contributor will receive acknowledgment of the amount he gives, and every cent will go directly for the Scottsboro and Herndon cases.

Justice is not free for the asking. Negroes, like all others, must sacrifice to secure it. If we fail Herndon and the Scottsboro boys now, we condemn our own children for generations to come.

ATHENS, GA.
BANNER HERALD
JUL 1 1934

MUST HANG AUGUST 31

After an elapse of three years, two of the negroes convicted of attacking a young white woman, of Scottsboro, Ala., while enroute on a freight from Tennessee to her home in Alabama, a decision has been handed down by the Supreme Court of that state upholding the findings of the lower courts.

The trial of these cases has been a travesty on the law and on the decency of society and the morale of the people of Alabama. These cases have "taxied" around in the state courts as well as in the federal courts for the past four years. The crime was one of the most horrible in the annals of criminal depredations, yet outside influences and interferences, backed up with financial aid. these young criminals have evaded punishment and defeated the purpose of all laws and courts of Alabama.

The delays by the trial court of these cases, has been responsible for at least one lynching in that state. Besides, the outraged yeomanry of the state resented the unnecessary delays and the unjust rulings in granting new trials and in other ways delaying justice to appertain, defeated the judge in the recent election for state officials in Alabama. A just desert for a man who leaned back of the bar of justice in order that it might be said by prejudiced outsiders that he was a fair, broad minded and liberal judge. Such tactics on the part of members of the judiciary are bound to result in defeat for such officials practicing politics and playing for popular favor.

LEWISTON, IDAHO
MORNING TRIBUNE
JUN 30 1934

THE SCOTTSBORO CASE AGAIN

So widespread has been the discussion and recrimination involving the trial and twice-sustained conviction of the Scottsboro, Alabama, negro youths charged with criminal assault, that many persons will be relieved to read that the United States supreme court has been asked to grant a second review of the case.

It is an affair which has been endlessly complicated by prejudice, abuse and propaganda on both sides. Following the first conviction of the defendants, carrying with it a mandatory death sentence, the case was appealed and the decision sustained by the Alabama supreme court. It was then appealed to the United States supreme court and remanded for a new trial, with a change of venue. The second trial brought a second conviction with death sentence but this verdict was set aside by the presiding jurist, Judge James E. Horton, who held that the jury came to a conclusion at variance with the evidence. This ruling in turn was appealed to the state supreme court, which on Thursday decided there is no reason for altering the original jury verdict and confirmed sentence of two of the negroes to death on August 31.

Unfortunately, the case has been made a worldwide sensation by the same organized propagandists as were responsible for the hysteria and furor over the Sacco-Vanzetti and Mooney cases. Communists and radicals of other kinds, following their usual practices, adopted the case as their own and have sought to make political capital out of it. Pretending to be defending innocent individuals from injustice and oppression, the suspicion has prevailed that the real objective of these "friends" has been to make the defendants martyrs for their cause and to disparage the American courts. So much animosity has been brought into the case that there is practically no middle ground left. Those interested have come to believe one way or the other, without much prospect of being swayed from opinion.

But, divested of communist oratory and despite the fact that Alabama's highest court has twice upheld the trial proceedings and declined to interfere with the sentence, there has persisted much reasonable criticism as to the claimed injustices surrounding these verdicts. After all, guilty or innocent, white or black, few accused persons are sentenced to death on the testimony of two women of dubious reputation, one of whom recanted her story between trials, and this with scarcely an item of corroborative evidence. The entire case has been tried against a background of mob sentiment and race prejudice. The record clearly indicates there is need for the kind of review which the federal court can give, lest there be possibility of grave error and injustice. Unless this is done there will never be an entirely satisfactory settlement of the question of the guilt or innocence of the defendants.

GREENWOOD, MISS.
COMMONWEALTH
JUL 3 1934

NOT ADVOCATING LYNCHING

"Your editorial about the Scottsboro and Tom Caraway cases was an advocacy of lynch w," says a critic.

Not at all brother. Not at all. It merely pointed out that the long delays in the courts made possible by legal technicalities having nothing whatever to do with the guilt or innocence of the defendants in the cases discussed, leads to an outraged community taking the law in its own hands.

GREENWOOD, MISS.
COMMONWEALTH
JUL 2 1934

INVITING LYNCHING

The Alabama Supreme Court has again upheld the death penalties for a pair of the famous Scottsboro negroes, twice convicted of rape of a white woman. The Mississippi Supreme Court recently upheld again the death penalty for Tom Caraway, coast negro, convicted of rape.

The mandates of the state courts however are set at naught by legal machinations and appeals to the federal courts.

The manner in which the courts have been defied in the Scottsboro and Caraway cases has given outraged citizens of the south an added reason for taking the law in their own hands and administering summary justice on occasion.

The final elimination of lynch law has been set back many years by the long drawn out Scottsboro and Caraway cases.

Let Negro Die Says John Brandon

Advertiser
7-23-34
Montgomery Alabama

Action yesterday by State Auditor John Brandon, declining to recommend executive clemency in the case of Thomas Brown, Morgan County negro, convicted of criminally assaulting a white woman, and condemned to death—placed a majority of the Board of Pardons on record as opposing a commutation of sentence. Atty. Gen. Thomas E. Knight, Jr., had already refused favorable recommendation.

The State Auditor and Attorney General have also written their recommendations in the case of Frank Jackson and Robert Davis, two other condemned negroes, who with Brown, are under sentence to die in the electric chair at Kilby Prison on Aug 3. Both Mr. Brandon and Mr. Knight recommended that the law take its course in the case of Jackson, who was convicted of holding up and robbing a white man and his young woman companion near Montgomery late last Summer, and who was also charged with attempted assault.

The Attorney General made a like recommendation as to Davis, convicted in Lowndes County of the murder of his uncle. Mr. Brandon, however, recommended that the sentence in this case be commuted to life imprisonment.

Secretary of State Pete B. Jarman, Jr., the other member of the Board of Pardons, has been out of the city, but is expected to act on all three petitions for clemency, following his return to Montgomery tomorrow.

TUSCALOOSA NEGRO SPEEDED TO KILBY IN QUICK HEARING

Less Than 24 Hours After Crime Prisoner On Way To Pen

News Age Herald
7-22-34
Birmingham Ala.

TUSCALOOSA, Ala. — (AP) —Less than 24 hours after a University of Alabama co-ed fought off his efforts to attack her, James Banks, Negro, Saturday afternoon was taken to Kilby Prison, Montgomery, to serve a sentence of from [illegible] to 20 years at hard labor for his crime.

The Negro entered a plea of guilty to an indictment charging him with assault with intent to ravish, and Judge Henry B. Foster gave him the maximum sentence for the offense. The indictment was returned in a one-hour special session of the Grand Jury Saturday morning.

Sheriff R. L. Shamblin left immediately with the prisoner for Montgomery.

Banks, who also is known as Robert Michael, told officers he came to Tuscaloosa from Kilby Prison in April, following his completion of a five-year sentence for a similar offense at Jackson, Ala., in Clarke County.

Miss Mary Tate Kicker, 20, comely brunet senior in the University's College of Commerce, identified Banks as her assailant shortly after his arrest Friday night.

Banks confessed the crime shortly after his arrest.

Miss Kicker escaped the Negro's clutches after being thrown to the ground by kicking him in the abdomen "as hard as I could."

She was accosted as she walked down a path, which she described as a "short cut" from her home in suburban Alberta City to the bus line.

After freeing herself from the Negro's grasp, the athletically inclined student dashed for help, and persons living near by called police.

Banks' arrest followed within two hours. Solicitor De Graffenreid, who accompanied the arresting officers to Banks' home, said the Negro readily admitted his identity and the crime.

A throng estimated at 300 persons milled about the courthouse and the jail yard during Friday night, but no effort was made to take the Negrom from the jail.

A SOBERING WORLD

Advertiser
7-23
Montgomery Ala.

The News, which, we believe, speaks for Better Birmingham, is distressed at a recent official blunder there. Says that newspaper: "The News thinks it regrettable in the extreme that John Howard Lawson was arrested in Birmingham on a charge of criminal libel in connection with what he wrote in the Communist paper, The Daily Worker, about Judge Abernethy's court. The affair before it runs its course is likely to give rise to much publicity of a sort which Birmingham will not relish. But worst of all, it gives Mr. Lawson and his kind the very thing which they most want—an opportunity to get publicity and to appear as victims of 'persecution.' The incident should have been regarded as something not worthy of notice by the court. By making a case of it the court dignifies the affair. And in all the circumstances, by dignifying it the court undignifies itself."

A Negro View Of Leibowitz

Advertiser
8-12-34
Montgomery Alabama

In the August issue of The American Spectator, George S. Schuyler, negro newspaper man of Pittsburgh, makes the charge that the Scottsboro boys have been jonahed. "The boys have been afflicted with Samuel Leibowitz and chained to the Communist chariot. A clever Southern or Northern white lawyer might have saved them," he thinks, "as a clever Southern negro saved the black sharecroppers of Elaine, Arkansas, sentenced to die on the more serious charge of conspiring to massacre the whites, right after the World War. If the Scottsboro boys do not suffer the fate of Sacco and Vanzetti, they will probably rot in prison like Mooney, a tragic memorial to megalomania, negrophobia and propaganda."

"Leibowitz" he continued, "is serving the Scottsboro boys without fee, and regardless of what their fate may be, the effort is far from being a total loss to him. It has lifted him from the category of a modest little Manhattan lawyer to that of an internationally famous attorney, a defender of the oppressed, a hero of the embattled proletariat."

"A really shrewd lawyer" Schuyler points out, "not intent on hogging the limelight, would have first built up good will, respect and admiration. Instead, Leibowitz proceeded to make the case a sectional as well as a racial one by challenging the fitness of the Alabama courts and attacking the exclusion of negroes from juries. Even worse," he charges "was the senseless parading of the past of the two allegedly raped wantons. In proving that the white girl belonged to a vast army of part-time prostitutes that swarms in the Southern mill towns, Leibowitz only strengthened the crackers' determination to fry the blackamoors."

"It is tragic that Communist trickery and bigotry eliminated Clarence Darrow from the case," says Schuyler. "He would have sized up the situation realistically, dumped the methods and mannerisms found successful in Manhattan courtrooms, and proceeded to play on the childish Southern sentimentality. Then," he thinks "the accused would each have been given a long sentence as is the Southern custom in order to save face, and, when the crackers had gone back to their corn liquor the boys would have been turned out on the street. It has happened scores of times before. It would have happened in the Scottsboro case, but," reminds The American Spectator contributor, "Sam Leibowitz was the chief counsel. He has the reputation; the lads have the death cell."

Tom Brown Must Die For Assault

Advertiser
8-14-34
Montgomery Ala.

The fate of Thomas Brown, negro, convicted in Morgan County of criminally assaulting a white woman and sentenced to death, was sealed yesterday when Gov. Miller declined to interfere with the action of the courts, and ordered that the law take its course. The State Board of Pardons had previously refused unanimously to recommend clemency in the case. Brown will be executed in the electric chair at Kilby Prison early in the morning of Friday, Sept. 14.

Recalling that the jury which found Brown guilty of the crime with which he was charged, fixed his punishment at death, the Governor in his official order, said: "It appears from the testimony and record that it was clearly a jury question as to the commission of the offense and the guilt thereof by the defendant.

"The woman positively identifies him. From the description of him by her the officers found and arrested him. When the officers appeared in sight, the defendant remarked to a bystander that the officers 'are hunting for me.' He then ran and they caught him. He denies his guilt.

"The solicitor expresses no doubt of his guilt. The trial judge states 'the case was clearly for the jury.' Each member of the Pardon Board recommends the death sentence be executed. No extenuating circumstances are found in the record."

CLEMENCY REFUSED NEGRO IN ATTACK

Pardon Board Unanimous In Declining Recommendation

Post
8-11-34
Birmingham

By United Press.

MONTGOMERY, Aug. 11.—Secretary of State ePte B. Jarman, Jr., today declined to recommend clemency for Thomas Brown, Morgan county negro, who is sentenced to die Sept. 4 for criminal assault on a Decatur woman. Two other members of the pardon board previously had also recommended death.

Alabama

Lynchings - 1934

Legal Punishment for Rape

4654

Pittsburgh Courier, N.A.A.C.P. Chiefs, Again Attack Scottsboro Defense

By RICHARD B. MOORE

Daily Worker

New York

IN ALL the annals of base betrayal there is hardly to be found a more dastardly deed than the latest vicious attempt of the Pittsburgh Courier and the N. A. A. C. P. officials to destroy the defense of the nine innocent Scottsboro boys.

At this crucial moment, when the defense is using available means, exerting every possible effort, and straining every energy to combat the trickery and terror of the lynch murderers, when it is imperative to arouse the greatest mass protest and struggle and to raise the tremendous sums necessary to carry through the appeals to the U. S. Supreme Court, these treacherous upper-class Negro misleaders, launch a lying and venemous attack upon the defense which, if it succeeded, would deliver these innocent boys defenseless into the hands of the white ruling class lynchers.

In a foul and slanderous editorial, the Pittsburgh Courier declares: **"These ill-fated Negroes might possibly have won a new trial if it had not been for the negligence of the Scottsboro Defense attorneys."** It repeats with approval, the vicious argument of Attorney General Knight and the Alabama lynch courts, that the defense attorneys failed to file the bill of exceptions within the proper time.

But these reformist Negro traitors know that the appeal was filed within the statutory 90 days from the date when judgment was entered on December 6 in the handwriting of Judge Callahan. They know that the upholding of Attorney General Knight's motion on this technical trick by the Alabama Supreme Court was so patently fraudulent that it has been compelled to back down.

Moreover, they know that the defense has succeeded in defeating all these vile maneuvers of the Alabama lynch officials, and have forced a stay of execution. For in the very issue of the Pittsburgh Courier whose editorial states that Haywood Patterson and Clarence Norris will be executed on August 31, "unless the Supreme Court of the United States orders a stay of execution," a new article on the front page announces the stay of execution forced from the Alabama Supreme Court by the I. L. D. defense.

But this editorial pronounces with ghoulish glee: "They seem to be doomed. All of the mass meetings in all of the capitals of Europe, Asia and Africa cannot save them now."

This is a repetition of the treacherous action of the Pittsburgh Courier when the appeals of seven of the Scottsboro boys were first brought before the Alabama Supreme Court. Then the Courier proclaimed: "The boys have sealed their own doom. We leave them to their poor judgment and the I. L. D. May God have mercy on their souls." Now they repeat the same vicious prayer, not to any god, but to the Alabama lynch officials, to burn the nine innocent Scottsboro boys.

Forge Name of Norris to Letter

Yet these traitors pretend to befriend the Scottsboro boys, whom they thus deliver over to the lynchers. The same issue of this reformist newspaper carries a letter it claims to have received from Clarence Norris, thanking the Pittsburgh Courier for "all they have done for me in these trying days." But this letter bears on its face unmistakable evidence of the vicious forgery by which it was produced. The second paragraph of this supposed letter of Clarence Norris reads: "Trying days . . . with the death in the offing . . . the electric chair with waiting straps to bind his arms and legs . . . straps that will hold **him** in their taut strength until his agonizing writhing ceases and he is freed by death itself!" (Emphasis ours).

These forgers would have us believe that Clarence Norris writes not of me, but of **him**. These tools of the lynch oppressors would like to make the Negro people believe that Clarence Norris accepts and resigns himself to his own lynch murder in the electric chair, and writes glowingly about it.

With unspeakable hypocrisy, the Pittsburgh Courier comments on this forged letter: "What a challenge to us to fight and fight until the bitter end!" From the beginning of the Scottsboro case down to the present moment, the Pittsburgh Courier, linked with the official misleaders of the N. A. A. C. P., have fought not against the lynchers, but against the defense and the mass struggle movement which alone has saved the lives of these nine innocent boys and which is their only hope now.

The editor of the Courier, Robert Vann, has been bribed with a position in the Roosevelt government. Together with the N. A. A. C. P. misleaders, he carries out the despicable role of assistant executioners of the Scottsboro boys and the Negro people.

This attack upon the Scotsboro defense is another attempt to cover up the betrayal of George Crawford by the N. A. A. C. P. misleaders into the hands of the Virginia lynch oppressors. This is clear from the foul screed of the prostitute columnist, George Schuyler, who writes of the Crawford case: "The N. A. A. C. P. handled the case as well as it could be handled. . . . He was lucky to get off with life imprisonment, what with the mountain of damning evidence against him." Going on immediately to attack the Scottsboro defense, Schuyler writes, "Both of these young men, I wager, would have preferred to have the N. A. A. C. P. get them life imprisonment, instead of a burning death."

Not death, and not life imprisonment for the nine innocent Scottsboro boys, as these treacherous lynch agents desire. But **struggle, united mass struggle, to force their release and to establish the rights of the oppressed Negro people! Repudiate these treacherous reformist misleaders! Support the I. L. D. defense! Send resolutions and protests from every organization. Organize strikes and militant protest demonstrations. Raise the funds needed to save the Scottsboro boys and Angelo Herndon. See that they are sent immediately and directly to the International Labor Defense. Fight to smash the murderous lynch frame-ups! Free the nine innocent Scottsboro boys and Angelo Herndon!**

Asheville, Ala., Aegis

July 13, 1934

Again the Supreme Court of Alabama affirmed the death sentences of Haywood Patterson and Clarence Norris, two of the seven Negro "Scottsboro Case" defendants, and set Friday, Aug. 31, as the date for their execution.

TROY, N. Y.
MORNING RECORD
JUL 11 1934

A NEW REPRIEVE.

The two Alabama Negroes who are under sentence of death for their alleged part in the noisome Scottsboro case have been given a stay on an application for a rehearing. This holds up execution until their lawyer returns from an European trip and prepares the papers upon which to continue his efforts for their release.

The Scottsboro case literally smells to high heaven. The Negroes who were originally arrested and convicted were tried by a white judge before a white jury; and the only evidence worthy of the name was given by two white women who were alleged to have been assaulted by these defendants. One of the women has since stated under oath, after conferring with Dr. Fosdick in New York, that she did not tell the truth and that none of the men assaulted her or her companion. Both of the women were tramps and one of them admitted she had been living and traveling with a man to whom she was not married.

The evidence, even on the first trial, would not have convicted any white man in Alabama. It should not have convicted a black one. And on the second trial there was not a reader who went through the testimony that supposed it was possible in any so-called civilized country to send any human being to death on such flimsy facts. Yet so high has race prejudice run in the state that the jury apparently did not dare to refuse to convict.

There was another element entering into the case. The Negroes could not secure adequate counsel in Alabama. A communist organization in New York, however, saw the opportunity for advertising and sent a talented lawyer to their aid. The people of Alabama, seeing him on the job and hearing his sluring remarks in behalf of his peculiar views, resented his presence and became all the more intent upon convicting the men.

It is needless to say that this attitude is utterly at variance with any standard of ethics. If these men are innocent it should make no difference who assists them in preparing their defense. And if the communists were out of the case there could hardly be much doubht in the mind of a fair-minded man. Now that the retrial seems to be assured let us hope that the State of Alabama forgets all extraneous matter and focuses its attention on this fact alone: Are the nine Negroes who have been convicted of assault on the two white girl tramps guilty, beyond any reasonable doubt? It will require a good deal of new evidence to answer that question in the affirmative.

Greenwood Commonwealth

July 2, 1934

INVITING LYNCHING

The Alabama Supreme Court has again upheld the death penalties for a pair of the famous Scottsboro negroes, twice convicted of rape of a white woman. The Mississippi Supreme Court recently upheld again the death penalty for Tom Caraway, coast negro, convicted of rape.

The mandates of the state courts however are set at naught by legal machinations and appeals to the federal courts.

The manner in which the courts have been defied in the Scottsboro and Caraway cases has given outraged citizens of the south an added reason for taking the law in their own hands and administering summary justice on occasion.

The final elimination of lynch law has been set back many years by the long drawn out Scottsboro and Caraway cases.

[illegible], Mass.
MERCURY
JUL 11 1934

The determination of Alabamians that the Negro defendants in the "Scottsboro case" shall hang is matched by the determined fight put up by counsel for the defense. The latest step taken by the latter is the filing of an application for a rehearing before the Alabama Supreme Court, resulting in an indefinite stay of execution for the two men now awaiting the death sentence. As the Supreme Court is now in recess and to take action would necessitate calling a special session, the application will probably not be acted upon before October. If a rehearing is denied, the court will again set a date for execution, and the next step will be an appeal to the Supreme Court of the United States. Samuel S. Leibowitz of New York, chief counsel for the nine defendants, said this was a certainty in the event that the Supreme Court did not disapprove the sentences.

The defendants have now been confined in jail for nearly four years, on charges of attacking Mrs. Victoria Price, March 25, 1931. At the time of the alleged assault, the defendants and their accuser were "hoboing" on a freight train. While the cases were on trial one of the presiding justices took occasion to declare that the woman's loose character made her testimony unworthy of credence; but the animus against the prisoners has been so obvious and so bitter that, outside the state of Alabama, it has been generally conceded that they had no prospect of a fair trial.

Charge Lawson With Libel In Alabama Court

Based on Article in 'Daily Worker' on Mine Strike

Daily Worker
New York N.Y.

NEW YORK, July 6. — John Howard Lawson was charged with libel today on the basis of an article he wrote in the "Daily Worker" on May 18 describing the trial of Birmingham strike leaders by Judge Abernathy, when he was himself arrested in court.

He was released under a $300 bond. He will come up for trial in about eight weeks.

The arrest of Lawson, a nationally prominent author, is aimed at driving the Daily Worker from the South where it has played a prominent part in the strikes and the fight against Jim Crow oppression of the Negro people.

* * *

By JOHN HOWARD LAWSON

Daily Worker
7-7-34
New York N.Y.

BIRMINGHAM, Ala., July 5.—By re-arresting me, Birmingham police seem to come out definitely for police censorship of the press and arrest of reporters whenever stories sent to newspapers favor the working class or disagree with the politics of the police department.

This time the charge against me is "printing and circulating seditious literature." Detective Mozer of the "red squad" in making the arrest based it on my story wired by me to the Daily Worker appearing in issue of May 17. I pointed out to Mozer that this article was printed and circulated in another city but he disregarded this fact, saying that copies of it reached Birmingham.

The irony of this arrest lies in the fact that it followed a cordial noncommittal conversation with Commissioner Downs who, while refusing to give definite assurances on civil liberty, stated that he knew of no cases of interference with the rights of citizens in Birmingham, and that he believed in freedom of the press unless, of course, the stories printed were lies.

Downs denied any personal knowledge of homes of white and Negro workers being invaded and searched without warrant, although we showed him a list of 14 cases with names and addresses.

As we were leaving Downs' office a few thugs standing in the corridor whispered, "We'll get the license number of their car and run them out of town." Following these threats Mozer took me in custody.

The delegation unanimously states, "Lawson's arrest raises clear the issue of press censorship in a form practically unheard of in a free country, The charge involves solely Lawson's professional activity as a newspaper man, and is a clear violation of the rights of the press. If the police can misuse their authority in this way against reporters no newspaper man is safe."

Joint Meetings Called to Fight Legal Lynching

Daily Worker
7-31-34
New York N.Y.

NEW YORK. — A joint call for emergency conferences in every city around the struggle for the freedom of the Scottsboro boys, Angelo Herndon and Ernst Thaelmann, and for powerful united front demonstrations on August 22, was issued last week by the League of Struggle for Negro Rights, the International Labor Defense and the National Committee for the Defense of Political Prisoners.

"The legal lynching of the Scottsboro boys and the torture to death of Angelo Herndon must be prevented," the call states in part. "The fight to free ten youths of the Negro race is a focal point in the struggle for the liberation of the oppressed Negro people—a central point in the decisive struggle against growing fascism."

Conferences should be held in every city, the call states, on the following three main issues: the fight for the freedom of the Scottsboro boys, the fight to free Herndon, and the launching of a nation-wide campaign for the enactment and enforcement of the Bill For Negro Rights and the Suppression of Lynching, presented by the L. S. N. R. The conferences should plan to put forward local ordinances aimed at smashing Jim-Crow laws and practices, and organize mass violation of the humiliating Jim-Crow laws and practices.

The call set August 22, anniversary of the legal murder of Sacco and Vanzetti, as a national day of struggle for the Scottsboro boys and Herndon.

"Into these struggles," it declares, "must be drawn all those who oppose the rising terror of fascism, Hitlerism in America. Hence the conferences should support the struggle for the release of Ernst Thaelmann, the heroic leader of the German working class whose militant struggle effectively aided the fight to save the Scottsboro boys."

Scottsboro

Chattanooga, Tenn. News
July 6, 1934

Libel Charged To Playwright At Birmingham

Lawson, in Alabama to Help Scottsboro Boys, Made Defendant.

Jim Crow Law Hit

Radical Leader Accused of Publishing "Vile and Malicious Literature."

Birmingham, July 6.—(A. P.)—John Howard Lawson, New York playwright, Friday was charged with criminal libel in a warrant sworn to by Detective Moser, based on an article in the Daily Worker, New York Communist publication, describing the Jefferson County Court of misdemeanors and felonies as a "jim crow and kangeraoo court."

The warrant was drawn in the office of Circuit Solicitor George Lewis Bailes and was made returnable in Jefferson Circuit Court. Bond on the charge was fixed at $300.

Lawson was arrested Thursday afternoon on a warrant charging him with distributing and publishing "vile and malicious literature," in connection with the same article in the Daily Worker.

A copy of the publication of May 18, 1934, with the article on which the charge was based under Lawson's byline and with his photograph accompanying it was exhibited by Moser before Commissioner of Public Safety W. T. Downs Thursday during a conference and shortly before his first arrest.

Maximum punishment under the charge on which Lawson was arrested Friday is six months at hard labor and a $500 fine.

1,000 Copies Seized.

City police seized approximately 1,000 copies of the publication here recently when they arrested a Negro who was circulating them.

Lawson, accompanied by seven other members of a committee representing the Civil Liberties Union and the League for the Defense of Political Prisoners, arrived here Thursday to demand removal of the Negro defendants in the "Scottsboro case" from alleged solitary confinement.

The committee later called on Commissioner Downs to demand "civil rights" for those who wished to distribute "radical literature" and to protest raids on alleged Communists.

Commissioner Downs told the committee that if the doctrine of social equality of whites and Negroes was permitted to be agitated it would result in widespread bloodshed, and pointed out that Alabama statutes prohibit intermarriage of races, or commingling under other conditions.

BE YOUR AGE!

Advertiser
8-1-34
Montgomery, Ala.

Birmingham gets all hot under the collar because Carl Carmer's "Stars Fell On Alabama," says that the Magic City is nouveaux riche. As a neighbor who loves Birmingham (the big hick town!) we can't see why all the fellows up there resent such an implication.

Certainly Birmingham is newly rich. It can not help its age. But it can help being rich, so what?

SCOTTSBORO RULING HEARTENS KILLERS

Two Dillinger Aides Pin Hope To Supreme Court Decision

Advertiser
8-2-34
Montgomery, Ala.

COLUMBUS, OHIO, Aug. 2—(AP)—Harry Pierpont and Charles Makley, Dillinger gangsters awaiting death in Ohio's electric chair, hope to win new trials on the basis of the U. S. Supreme Court's reversal of the Scottsboro convictions.

Briefs were filed by their attorneys in the State Supreme Court today in support of constitutional appeals from their first degree murder convictions in Lima, Ohio, they killed Sheriff Jessie Sarber while liberating Dillinger from the Allen County jail a year ago.

A parallel between their trials and the Scottsboro case in which several negroes condemned to death on charges of criminal assault was claimed in that an armed guard was thrown about the courthouse and restrictions placed upon spectators, witnesses, defendants, their counsel and even the jury.

Presence of State troops and restrictions imposed by them during the trials, the briefs contend prevented Pierpont and Makley from receiving a "public, fair and impartial trial as guaranteed by both the State and Federal Constitutions.

It also was argued that the Scottsboro decision was reversed by the nation's highest tribunal because of the presence of national guardsmen at that trial.

During Pierpont's trial, it was contended, Sheriff Don Sarber, son of the slain sheriff, menaced not only Pierpont but his counsel as well with a machine gun which he kept pointed in their direction "with a nervous trigger finger."

Lynchings-1934
Legal Punishment for Rape

Alabama

4655

NEGLIGENCE OF THE SCOTTSBORO DEFENSE

Courier

Unless the Supreme Court of the United States orders a stay of execution, Heywood Patterson and Clarence Norris, two of the seven Scottsboro case victims will be executed on Friday, August 31, 1934, in accordance with the uanimous opinion of the Alabama Supreme Court upholding the death sentences imposed upon them.

These ill-fated Negroes might possibly have won a new trial if it had not been for the negligence of the Scottsboro defense attorneys. Following the conviction and sentencing of Patterson and Norris, these lawyers had ninety days in which to file a bill of exceptions. Had this been done, the Alabama Supreme Court would have been compelled to consider the transcript of testimony in making its decision. The trial testimony MIGHT NOT have swerved the Alabama Supreme Court, but then again, it MIGHT, and the lawyers of the International Labor Defense had no right to gamble with the lives of these two youngsters by neglecting to take every legal step in their behalf.

7-14-34

As it happened, the Alabama Supreme Court sustained the plea of Attorney General Thomas E. Knight that the bill of exceptions be stricken from the records because it had not been filed in time, and that therefore the judgment had become final, and the court was without jurisdiction to entertain a motion for a new trial. Thus, the trial court's action was sustained.

Pittsburgh, Pa.

To say that the I. L. D. lawyers were negligent, is to put the case very mildly. Why didn't they familiarize themselves with the laws of Alabama? Why didn't they know what was the time limit for filing a bill of exceptions? Why didn't they file the bill of exceptions in time, and thus give the Alabama Supreme Court jurisdiction to entertain a motion for a new trial? It is not enough for these lawyers to plead in extenuation that they were tricked. Ignorance of the law is no excuse, certainly none for a lawyer. It was not the business, and certainly not the inclination, of the Alabama authorities to instruct the I. L. D. lawyers in the law. They were supposed to know the law.

Had these lawyers been attorneys for the N. A. A. C. P., the Communists and their sympathizers would have been trumpeting to the world about the "betrayal of the boys," "the surrender to capitalist lynch terror" and "the craven bowing to the will of Alabama," but in justice to these gentlemen of the Scottsboro defense, it is more charitable to say merely that they were guilty of negligence. Of course this will not help Heywood Patterson and Clarence Norris. They seem to be doomed. All of the mass meetings in all of the capitals of Europe, Asia and Africa cannot save them now. Only a Justice of the U. S. Supreme Court can do that, and none will do so except on strict legal grounds which the tardy bill of exceptions might have supplied. Certainly after collecting $55,194.92 to defend the Scottsboro boys, the I. L. D. should not have sacrificed them by default.

Trial Judge Opposes Clemency In Case Of Negro Condemned To Die

Advertiser
7-10-34
Montgomery Ala.

Opposition to any sort of clemency for Frank Jackson, Montgomery negro, was expressed [illegible] Judge Walter B. Jones, trial judge, in a letter to Gov. Miller and the State Board of Pardons. Since the Supreme Court a few weeks ago affirmed the verdict of death, imposed by a jury in Circuit Court, counsel for Jackson [illegible] a petition for clemency which will be heard by the Governor and Pardon Board at 2:30 p.m. Tuesday, July 17. He has been sentenced to electrocution on Aug. 3.

The negro was convicted of highway robber last September. George Meadows, who confessed and implicated Jackson, was electrocuted within less than two months after his arrest.

Replying to the Governor's request for a recommendation in the case of Jackson, Judge Jones wrote: "I am absolutely opposed to any sort of clemency for this defendant. He was convicted, after a fair and full trial, of one of the most atrocious crimes in the history of our county, the circumstances of which crime were brutal and shocking.

"The evidence fully justified his conviction, and leaves no room at all for any sort of doubt as to his guilt. He was at the place where the crime was committed with George Meadows, took full part in it, was identified beyond the peradventure of a doubt, and I can't think of one single fact that would justify clemency to him. His partner in the crime has paid the supreme penalty and Frank Jackson should pay the same penalty.

"The granting of any kind of clemency to this undeserving felon would, in my judgment, be a blow to the administration of justice in this county and the State. The verdict of the jury in this case is sound and just, and the verdict should be permitted to stand as upheld by the Supreme Court and the defendant should be executed.

"I unalterably oppose any clemency to Frank Jackson."

Meadows and Jackson were convicted of robbing a man and a young woman companion on the extension of South Court Street. The negroes are said to have attacked the woman after the robbery.

Albany-Decatur, Ala. Daily
July 6, 1934

Hawkins' Position

Sheriff James Hawkins, of Jefferson county, has properly advised a committee from New York that the Scottsboro defendants are receiving and will continue to receive the same treatment accorded other prisoners confined in the Jefferson county jail.

Sheriff Hawkins refused the demands of the committee, headed by John Howard Lawson, New York playwright, for removal of the Scottsboro negroes to another section of the jail.

If Lawson had taken the trouble to inquire, he would have discovered that the Scottsboro negroes have constituted a source of trouble for Jefferson county fficers ever since they have been incarcerated there. They have fought among themselves, have fought other prisoners and, on occasions, have defied jail officials.

Sheriff Hawkins explained that the negroes had been placed in solitary confinement because of these infractions of jail rules. The same treatment would have been accorded any other prisoners. The New Yorkers, with their usual butt-insky attitude may or may not believe this is true. As for The Daily, it doesn't give a whoop what the New Yorkers or any other eastern egotists choose to believe.

WOULD BAR 'RED' LAWYERS

Alabama Legislator Will Aim Bill at Scottsboro Attorneys.

New York Times
7-9-34
New York City

Special to THE NEW YORK TIMES.

MOBILE, Ala., July 8.—Eugene Conner, recently nominated in the Democratic primary as representative from Jefferson County to the Legislature, announced today that he would introduce a bill to prohibit out-of-State attorneys from conducting cases in Alabama courts and another measure to curb communistic agitation and the advocating of social equality between whites and Negroes.

Mr. Conner said the bill to prohibit attorneys not members of the Alabama bar from conducting cases in the State courts was aimed directly at the attorneys in the "Scottsboro case."

He pointed to the arrest of over a score of alleged Communist agitators and organizers in Birmingham, six of whom were freed in court.

For his description of their hearings, John Howard Lawson, New York playwright, was charged with criminal libel on Friday.

SAVANNAH, GA.
PRESS
JUN 29 1934

THE SCOTTSBORO CASE

The Supreme Court of Alabama has confirmed the sentences in the Scottsboro cases. This cause has been hanging for a long time, and has created a sensation in Alabama. Northern representatives of the Race Commission attended former trials, but they only harmed their clients and clouded the issue.

After a former conviction of the negroes, who were charged with assault on white girls on a freight train, and with throwing out their would-be protectors, the United States Supreme Court was asked to intervene and this tribunal referred it back for a new trial in Alabama. That trial has been held, the same verdict reached and now the Supreme Court of that state has confirmed the sentences. Four of the negroes were sentenced to death, and one ~~of them~~, on account of his extreme youth, was given life imprisonment.

On account of the intervention of foreign counsel, the case assumed a semi-political aspect; the charge of defense attorneys being that the men had not had a fair trial and were victims of local feeling.

So far as the feeling in Alabama is concerned it is probably true; the indignation in that state was very great, but the case which has been delayed from time to time, may now be considered settled.

There seems to be nothing left, but for the law to take its course. The wave of feeling has been in some quarters compared to the Saccho-Vangetti case.

What matters it that these were not the highest type of girls in Alabama? They were women, and this same question is being presented in Savannah today.

Ford, Stachel Talk At Thälmann and Scottsboro Rally

July 19 Meet To Protest Class and National Persecutions

Daily Worker
7-18-34
New York, N.Y.

NEW YORK.—An International Rally for the freedom of Angelo Herndon, Ernst Thaelmann, the Scottsboro Boys and other victims of class and national oppression will be held Thursday evening, July 19, in the Finnish Hall, 15 West 126th Street, Upper Harlem.

The purpose of the meeting is to bring about more and united actions for Negro, Finnish, Spanish and other workers in the Harlem section in support of the campaign to rescue Thaelmann, the Scottsboro boys, Herndon, as well as Comrades Ortiz and Sanchez, imprisoned in Porto Rico for their working class activities, and Comrade Wirtanen, leading Finnish Communist, jailed in Hitler Germany.

The meeting will be addressed by two members of the Central Committee of the Communist Party, James W. Ford, who is also Section Organizer of the Party in Harlem, and Jack Stachel, Assistant National Secretary of the Trade Union Unity League. M. Wutala will speak for the National Committee of the Finnish Workers Clubs, and Mike Walsh will act as chairman.

Scottsboro Negroes Seeking Rehearing

Advertiser
7-10-34
Montgomery, Ala.

Applications for rehearing of appeals in the cases of Haywood Patterson and Clarence Norris, two of the seven "Scottsboro case" defendants, filed yesterday with the Alabama Supreme Court, automatically suspended execution of the death sentences of the two negroes, which had been set by the Supreme Court for Aug. 31, when it recently affirmed judgment of the Morgan Circuit Court where Patterson and Norris were convicted for criminally assaulting two young white women, near Scottsboro, Ala., in the Spring of 1931.

The Supreme Court is now in recess and will not reconvene in regular session until Oct. 1. Applications for rehearing filed yesterday will not be ruled on until then, unless a special session of the court is held. Until they are ruled on, no new date for execution of the death sentences will be prescribed by the high court.

Rehearing applications were submitted by Samuel Liebowitz, of New York, and associated defense counsel, and were accompanied by formal notice that in the event these applications are overruled, appeals will be taken to the Supreme Court of the United States.

JACKSON ON KNEES BEFORE GOVERNOR

Begs To Be Saved From Chair, Denying Any Part In Court Street Outrage

Advertiser
7-18-34
Montgomery, Ala.

Throwing himself on his knees beside Gov. Miller's desk, his right hand raised and the muscles of his face twitching with emotion, Frank Jackson, condemned negro, sentenced to die in the electric chair at Kilby on Aug. 3, for robbing a white man and his young woman companion, near Montgomery, late last Summer, and who was also charged with attempted criminal assault—yesterday afternoon made a final dramatic plea to the Chief Executive and members of the Board of Pardons for commutation of his sentence to life imprisonment.

"'Fore God, Mr. Governor and you all," he said, still keeping his right hand elevated, "I never done it. I wasn't there and don't know nothin' 'bout it. Please sir, Mr. Governor, don't let 'em put me in the chair. I swear Ise innocent, and if I goes down I'll go an innocent man." Regaining his feet, the supplicant stood for a moment as if he wished to say something more, then tears began rolling down his cheeks as he turned with a stifled sob to go with the attending guards back to the penitentiary.

In a previous statement before the Governor and the Pardon Board, Jackson claimed he was "framed" by his alleged accomplice, George Meadows, another negro, in a confession made by the latter. Meadows who was also convicted, was electrocuted some months ago. Jackson declared he never left his home on the night of the crime. His wife corroborated the statement, telling of various incidents that occurred during the evening. The negro also declared that Meadows harbored a grudge against him because he had run him away from his house.

Counsel for Jackson, in support of their client's statements, said that following the negro's arrest they went to Kilby Prison and questioned him, then interviewed his wife, and their accounts of what occurred at their home on the evening and night of the crime, when both claimed the condemned man never left the premises, coincided exactly. Husband and wife had not, in the meantime, seen or communicated with each other, they said. The attorneys also recalled that Jackson had been steadily employed for five years by a dairy concern on the outskirts of the city; and that officials of that concern said he was a good worker, had a good reputation, and had never been in any trouble before that they knew of. It was also argued that though the young white woman had positively identified Meadows, she was not certain in her identification of Jackson.

Counsel recalled further that Jackson some time before the crime was committed, had driven Meadows from his house; that the two families lived side by side, and that instead of trying to escape when Meadows was arrested, Jackson though aware of the arrest, went back to work and was at work when officers came to take him into custody several days later. Jackson claims he knew Meadows was a gambler and that he thought that was what Meadows was being arrested for. In a brief plea, Jackson's mother said: "That's my chile. Please sir don't take his life; don't kill him."

Jackson's petition for clemency was one of three pleas for commutation submitted to the Governor and the Pardon Board yesterday, all of the petitioners being negroes. One of the two others was Tom Brown, convicted in Morgan County of criminally assaulting a white woman. Brown claims an alibi, maintaining that he is innocent and was elsewhere in the county when the crime occurred. Counsel for the negro, argued that he had established an alibi; that the victim of the assault was in error in her identification, and that the State's evidence was not conclusive of Brown's guilt.

The third petitioner for commutation was Robert Davis, convicted in Lowndes County of killing his uncle in a shooting affray. Davis claimed his relative was advancing on him with a knife and he fired in self-defense. There was evidence to the effect that the uncle was shot in the back, it was testified.

All three petitions were taken under advisement.

NORFOLK, VA.
VIRGINIAN PILOT
JUN 30 1934

Again the Scottsboro Case

The Scottsboro case, now in its fourth year, has achieved its second decision at the hands of the Alabama Supreme Court. In its first decision, nearly two years ago, the court found no error in the trial that resulted in a sentence of death for Haywood Patterson for his part in the alleged criminal attack on two white women hoboes in the Paint Rock, Ala., episode of the spring of 1931. The present decision, in the same tenor, embraces a second defendant, Clarence Norris.

In the case of Patterson the appeal for a new trial is turned down cold because of a technicality—failure of his attorneys to file a bill of exceptions within the 90-day prescribed period. In the case of Norris, the court rejects the contention that the composition of the grand and petit juries reflected intentional race discrimination, finds that there was no error in the lower court's refusal to permit the defense to question the prosecutrix, Victoria Price, as to her past moral record; and expresses the view that the burden of the evidence in the Norris case does not warrant interference with the lower court's denial of the motion for a new trial.

That there will be an appeal from the second Alabama Supreme Court decision to the Supreme Court of the United States seems certain. That court was instrumental in forcing a new trial for Patterson on the ground that he had been denied proper counsel. If it interferes again it will have to be on another ground, for this time the Negroes had able legal defenders. The basis for the second appeal to the nation's Supreme Court will probably be the charge of racial discrimination in the preparation of jury lists and selection of jurors.

Leaving these technicalities of offense and defense to the courts, the lay mind instinctively applies to this case its own understanding of the social forces that have played upon it, and seeks to assess the probabilities and improbabilities in the light of human experience. Every detail of this celebrated case has become public property. Every adult person who has possessed himself of the facts, qualifies, in a manner of speaking, as a juror.

In this character, and not as a student of the technicalities and refinements of the law, the Virginian-Pilot does not hesitate to say that, in its opinion, the sentencing of these two Negroes to death for their part in the Paint Rock escapade, is a miscarriage of justice. It believes that the fair view of the case was expressed by Judge James E. Horton who presided over the second Patterson trial last summer. At the conclusion of the trial counsel for both the defense and prosecution praised the meticulous fairness of his rulings. Setting aside the jury's verdict of guilty as contrary to the evidence, he said (June 22, 1933) that the testimony of the prosecutrix "bears on its face indications of improbability and is contradicted by the evidence." Then he added:

> History, sacred and profane, and the common experience of mankind teaches that women of the character shown in this case are prone for selfish reasons to make false accusations both of rape and insult upon the slightest provocation, or even without provocation, for ulterior purposes.

There is, it seems to the Virginian-Pilot, an illuminating hypothetical question to ask in connection with this case. Had the actors in the box car episode been hoboes all of one race, instead of two races, would any court in the South have given even passing credence to the charge of two women of proved promiscuous proclivities, that they had been violated by intruders upon their box car habitat? The answer, we believe, is no. Had this been a uniracial involvement, the actors would have been fined $50 apiece and ordered to clear out in twenty-four hours and never come back. That a different and deadlier justice has ruled in the Scottsboro case is due—who can doubt it?—to the fact that it was a bi-racial involvement. In that kind of involvement the testimony of white prostitutes commands, in some sections of the South, the respect that it does not command, even in these same sections, when the issue, instead of a human life, happens to be the ownership of a stolen watch, and is dignified with a credence repugnant to the teaching of "history, sacred and profane, and the common experience of mankind."

SCOTTSBORO—1934

—Ruth Fitch Boyd.

Defender 7-21-34

Nine living men—already turned into
Dark symbols of man's darkest avenue;
But prisons are as real, God Knows, as lice,
And courthouses with other things are packed
Than abstract justice. A trial's a sweating fact
To men whose life blood freezes when the ice
Clicks in a jury's January eyes,
Narrowed by hate and walled and crossed by lies.

Chicago, Ill.

Nine living men! Protest because their death
Will let oppression draw a deeper breath
With its asthmatic lungs, its brutal toe
Trampling the pyramids we built by inches
To ant hills. Decry a system that wars and lynches!
Call this one dire example—I know—I know—
Yet nine live and if these nine should die
Who holds the rope, my friends, but you and I?

Lynchings-1934

Alabama

4656

Legal Punishment for Rape.

The Fight for Herndon and the Scottsboro Nine

STATEMENT OF THE CENTRAL COMMITTEE COMMUNIST PARTY, U.S.A.

Daily Worker 7-11-34

New York, N.Y.

TO ALL workers, farmers, professionals, intellectuals!

The Supreme Courts of the States of Alabama and Georgia have brushed aside the overwhelming evidence of the innocence of the Scottsboro boys and Angelo Herndon and have refused to reverse the vicious verdict against these victims of class and national oppression.

The fact that the trials of Herndon and the Scottsboro boys reeked with prejudice, the fact that the most elementary rights of the working class and the Negro people were trampled underfoot—all this means nothing to the highest legal tribunals of these two Southern States.

The International Labor Defense presented evidence for the Scottsboro boys. One-tenth of this evidence would have been sufficient in the ordinary course of a legal case, to warrant the freeing of the prisoners. Yet in the face of all this, the Alabama Supreme Court cynically states: "We find no error to reverse."

Sentence of death has again been passed against two of the Scottsboro boys. Angelo Herndon, heroic young leader of the white and Negro workers of Atlanta, after two years of torture in jail, is on his way to the chain-gang.

• • •

THE plan to murder the Scottsboro boys and Angelo Herndon is the answer of the rulers and their courts to the rising rebellion of the white workers and the Negro people. Against the misery of this rotten capitalist system a wave of strikes has been sweeping the country. North and South, East and West, workers of all races and nationalities have struck against the denial of their rights, against the slavery imposed on them by the "New Deal" and the N.R.A. Bullets, tear-gas, and machine-guns, all the forces of the government and the employers, have not been able to stop the workers and the Negro people. The Southern workers, especially, have struck against the vicious wage differentials.

In answer to these mass struggles, the government of the landlords, factory-owners, and bankers, plan to throw into our faces the charred bodies of the nine Scottsboro boys, and the broken body of Angelo Herndon, done to death on the murderous Georgia chain-gang.

The new decrees against the Scottsboro boys and Herndon say plainly to the Negro masses: You have no rights. You are servants and underlings. You must stay in the place assigned you. If you protest, you will face the chain-gangs, the prisons, and the electric chair.

The decisions against Angelo Herndon and the Scottsboro boys are a danger signal for every worker, every toiling farmer, every honest intellectual in the United States. These decisions involve far more than ten people. Fascist organizations of the kind that are murdering our class brothers in Germany, are springing up all over the country. The menace of fascism in America increases day by day. Such cases as these of Scottsboro and Herndon are the testing ground for fascism in the United States—the first feelers put out by the Brown Beast.

Just as Hitler, to suppress the German masses, incites murder against the Jews, so the American rulers, to keep the workers divided, to divert them from the thought of their starvation and suffering, to confuse them and keep them from joining in solidarity against their common foe, lynches and burns in the electric chair the Negro workers.

The United States today is in upheaval. The class lines are tauter, the issues are more sharply drawn. The measures of oppression are more vicious.

• • •

TO MEET this situation, we must have a mightier mass movement than ever before.

Those who would betray the working class and the Negro people—the misleaders of the N.A.A.C.P., of the Socialist Party, of the A. F. of L., and of other organizations of this type—will tell us: The Supreme Court will save the Scottsboro boys and Angelo Herndon. Yes, we will take these cases before the Supreme Court. But this counsel to put reliance in the ruling class courts is given to weaken the organized campaign of the white and Negro toilers to force the freedom of these victims.

There must be no illusions about the Supreme Court. The last Scottsboro decision by this highest court refused to consider a single one of the burning issues involved in the case—the issues of principle. It refused to pass on the question of the right of Negroes to serve on juries. Since that time, it has refused to consider the same question as raised in the case of George Crawford, another Negro framed in the State of Virginia. Only the mightiest mass movement, the most determined action by white and Negro toilers, can force the Supreme Court, which is the supreme legal agent of the white rulers, to hand down a decision favoring the Scottsboro boys and Angelo Herndon.

The Supreme Courts of Georgia and Alabama, with the full support of the national government, of Roosevelt, of the New Deal regime, has by these decisions spat in the face of the Negro people and the white working class. It has trampled underfoot all our rights and refused as much as to listen to our demands.

What must be our answer? The Communist Party calls upon all organizations of workers and of the Negro people, on all honest, sincere intellectuals; on all those willing to fight against oppression; to give unconditional support to the League of Struggle for Negro Rights and the International Labor Defense in the fight to free the Scottsboro boys and Angelo Herndon. In every city, broad united fronts should be organized; conferences should be called to plan the fight for the freedom of the Scottsboro boys and Herndon and for Negro rights in a campaign that shall draw in thousands of workers never reached before. United front committees must lead this struggle—workers, farmers and intellectuals of every nationality, creed, and political belief must be drawn upon to form these Scottsboro-Herndon committees.

Into the streets with demonstrations and protests. Shout into the ears of the murderers: "The Scottsboro boys shall not die! Angelo Herndon shall not be done to death on your chain-gang! They must live and they must be freed!"

Alabama Should Not Bar Lawyers From Other States

News 7-10-34 Birmingham, Ala.

A bill may be introduced in the next Legislature, it is reported, to bar lawyers from other states from taking more than an advisory part in cases in Alabama courts. The proposed bill would be modeled after an Ohio law, under which, it is said, only members of that state's bar are allowed to conduct proceedings on either side. In Ohio, outside lawyers may sit at the counsel table and serve in an advisory capacity, but may not have anything to say to the court.

The proposal for Alabama to adopt a similar law, it appears, is intended to prevent Samuel Leibowitz, of New York, from participating in further trials of the so-called Scottsboro cases. But whatever the reason which prompts the idea, it is an unwise proposal and should not receive serious consideration in the Legislature.

Lawyers from one state should be permitted to practice in the courts of other states, just as other professional men—doctors, engineers, architects, etc.—may practice in states other than their own, when there is occasion for them to do so, and just as business affairs may be extended from one state to another.

If all states should follow Ohio's example with respect to the practice of law, a difficult situation would confront the courts and the public alike.

Savannah, Ga. Press
June 29, 1934

THE SCOT BORO CASE

The Supreme Court of Alabama has confirmed the sentences in the Scottsboro cases. This cause has been hanging for a long time, and has created a sensation in Alabama. Northern representatives of the Race Commission attended former trials, but they only harmed their clients and clouded the issue.

After a former conviction of the negroes, who were charged with assault on white girls on a freight train, and with throwing out their would-be protectors, the United States Supreme Court was asked to intervene and this tribunal referred it back for a new trial in Alabama. That trial has been held, the same verdict reached and now the Supreme Court of that state has confirmed the sentences. Four of the negroes were sentenced to death, and one of them, on account of his extreme youth, was given life imprisonment.

On account of the intervention of foreign counsel, the case assumed a semi-political aspect; the charge of defense attorneys being that the men had not had a fair trial and were victims of local feeling.

So far as the feeling in Alabama is concerned it is probably true; the indignation in that state was very great, but the case which has been delayed from time to time, may now be considered settled.

There seems to be nothing left, but for the law to take its course. The wave of feeling has been in some quarters compared to the Saccho-Vanzetti case.

What matters it that these were not the highest type of girls in Alabama? They were women, and this same question is being presented in Savannah today.

Macon, Ga., Telegraph
June 30, 1934

Using Him as a Tool

The supreme court of Alabama has just handed down a decision upholding the death sentences of Clarence Norris and Heywood Patterson, two of the original nine defendants in the Scottsboro case, in which they were convicted of a criminal attack upon a young white woman.

At the New York office of Samuel Liebowitz, counsel for the Negro prisoners, acting for the International Labor Defense, it was announced that the case would be appealed to the supreme court of the United States on the ground that the Fourteenth amendment to the Constitution had been violated because no Negroes were on the jury.

It is high time for the American people clearly to understand the Communist activities behind this defense of the Scottsboro Negroes. The International Labor Defense and the Communists of America do not care a rap for these Negroes, in and for themselves. It is a matter of record that they simply use cases like these to further the cause of Communism in the United States and thereby play upon and betray the finest emotions of the human heart.

The report of the special committee of the House to investigate Communist propaganda in this country, commonly known as the Fish committee, since it was headed by Representative Hamilton Fish, of New York, exposes in detail the workings of such organizations as the American Civil Liberties Union and the International Labor Defense. In testimony before that committee it was brought out that the International Labor Defense was formed in 1925 with headquarters in Chicago, as a Communist organization to defend class-war prisoners and for the repeal of all sedition and criminal syndicalist laws. It later moved to New York. It provides legal aid to all Communists arrested for revolutionary activities and helps to secure bail for them. One of its avowed purposes is to "give publicity to persecution of workers".

The active head of the International Labor Defense is J. Louis Engdahl, who holds the position of secretary general. He has been to Russia several times and is on the central executive committee of the Communist Party of America.

In passing we may say that the young woman who recently wrote a highly sensational article in The Epworth Herald, organ of the Epworth League, advocating sabotage within the United States army in case of another war, and who is a member of a Communist organization, might be interested in a bit of testimony by Engdahl before the Fish committee:

Chairman: You want to affirm?

Engdahl: Yes, sir.

Chairman: For what reason?

Engdahl: Because I do not believe in any bourgeois hypocrisy, and we have heard plenty of perjury here today, even among those who have been sworn.

Chairman: We want to know if you believe in a Supreme Being.

Engdahl: No, sir; I don't.

Queer company indeed for the secretary for social service of the Methodist church, to put it mildly.

But to get back to the Scottsboro case, it is an established fact that the International Labor Defense uses such cases as those of the Scottsboro Negroes merely as propaganda for the Communist cause, and we will know hereafter just how seriously we should take any further efforts in the alleged behalf of those Negroes in Alabama.

Albany-Decatur, Ala. Daily
July 2, 1934

The Gardner Decision

In writing the decision of the Alabama supreme court, upholding the decision of the Morgan county circuit court in the case of Clarence Norris, one of the Scottsboro defendants, Associate Justice Gardner is declared to have prepared one of the "most remarkable documents" in defense of Alabama's selective jury system ever written.

There were so many other features to the Scottsboro case that many Alabamians seemed to completely overlook the fact that the I. L. D. was making a determined and direct attack against the jury system of this state, an effort which the prosecution, led by Attorney General Thomas E. Knight, Jr., resisted with every resource at its command.

The Scottsboro case was blazoned forth in the public prints in its more lurid details, but no Southerner and certainly no Alabamian should ever forget that underneath all of the defense's theatric maneuverings there was and still is a fight to end Alabama's system of selecting prospective jurors for the operation of its courts. Obscured by the more sensational phases of the case, nevertheless, under the surface there was a dogged legal battle going on which could have had a most important bearing on the conduct of Alabama courts of justice.

It is this phase which is so completely covered in the decision written by Justice Gardner.

Concerning that document, Fred Gormley, author of the column "Behind the Curtain" says:

"One of the most remarkable documents in defense of Alabama's jury system ever written in Alabama may be found in the opinion of Justice Gardner in one of the Scottsboro cases handed down Thursday. In the days to come it will be referred to as a classic, in the opinion of many who read it.

"Attorneys for the negroes, who were employed by the International Labor Defense, contended that they were improperly indicted because the grand jury did not contain members of the negro race and the jury box from which the jury was drawn did not hold the names of negroes.

"This was one of their main contentions. On it they hope to go to the United States Supreme Court and obtain a reversal. Justice Gardner showed that negroes were not automatically excluded from the jury list in Jackson county, where the indictments were returned, or in Morgan county, where the negroes were tried. He showed that the jury commission was possessed of wide discretion and that while only 866 negroes of qualified age were left off the jury roll in Jackson county several thousand white men who were qualified were omitted from the jury list.

"The proof before the trial judge (who declined to quash the indictment) is ample to sustain the view that these jury commissioners (in Jackson county) have made no exclusion of any negro from the jury roll on account of his race or color and that in point of fact in the discharge of their duties it was not so much a matter of exclusion as of selection so as to obtain for that important function of judicial government those best suited for such important service."

Justice Gardner's opinion was concurred in by the unanimous vote of the judges of the supreme court.

TWO EXECUTIONS AGAIN DEFERRED

~~Telegraph~~
7-10-34
Macon, Ga.

Application For Rehearing in Scottsboro Case Gives Negroes New Lease on Life

MONTGOMERY, Ala., July 9 (AP)—A new step in the now nearly four-year-old legal battle in the "Scottsboro case" was taken today, filing an application for a re-hearing before the Alabama supreme court, resulting in an indefinite stay of execution for the two Negro defendants under death sentence.

The rehearing application probably will not be acted upon before October, as the Alabama Supreme court now is in recess, and to take action would necessitate calling a special session.

In event the rehearing is denied, the court will again set a date of execution, with the next step to save the Negroes an appeal to the United States Supreme court, which Samuel S. Leibowitz, of New York, chief of defense counsel for the nine Negro defendants, said was a certainty, in event the Alabama courts did not reverse the sentences.

The Negroes now under sentence, Heywood Patterson and Clarence Norris, were convicted in Morgan Circuit court last December by juries that fixed their punishment at death in the electric chair in Kilby prison here. They were charged with attacking Mrs. Victoria Price, March 25, 1931, in mass attacks on a freight train.

When the Alabama Supreme court affirmed the sentences on June 28, the date of execut'on was set for Aug. 31. The filing of a rehearing application, however, had the effect of staying it.

DES MOINES, IA.
TRIBUNE CAPITAL

JUN 30 1934

ALABAMA'S SHAME.

It is a tragic sentence in the Associated Press report about the Alabama Supreme court's approval of the Scottsboro convictions that reads;

> **"With the bill of exceptions stricken (because of its technically improper filing), the supreme court was restricted solely to the court records AND WAS UNABLE TO CONSIDER THE MERITS OF THE CASE."**

It is a question whether the case against these nine Negro boys ever has been or ever will be tried on its merits.

The prejudices and hatreds that every court and every jury in Alabama concerned with it have had to overcome, from the very start, have of course been terrific. It is doubtful that any of them have completely overcome those hatreds.

The nearest approach to a calm judgment was probably attained by Judge James E. Horton, who after Heyward Patterson's second trial set aside the verdict because the evidence presented was improbable and contradictory. But the jury had been influenced by the apparently inevitable racial prejudices of the state, and the mass emotionalism involved was amply demonstrated by Judge Horton's recent failure of re-election.

Unbiased opinion in other parts of the country has long since been suspicious of the whole Alabama proceedings.

One of the white girls originally to serve as a witness promptly abandoned her story and admitted, as soon as she was beyond the influence of Alabama officials, that the story of the attack had been "framed" after a fight between the Negro youths and a gang of whites. The other girl witness had been in demonstrably ill repute long before the crime of which the Negroes were accused allegedly took place.

The United States Supreme court itself remanded the case because the trial had been improperly conducted. But in the meantime Alabama's mad race hatred had been newly whetted by the appearance of "Jew lawyers from New York" on the defense side. By the time the case got back into the Alabama courts for the third time, to effect real justice was patently next to impossible.

This is the case in which the Alabama Supreme court is now "unable to consider the merits."

All that the supporters of decency and tolerance and justice can now hope for is a final review once more by the Supreme court of the United States.

Lynchings - 1934
Legal Punishment for Rape.

Alabama

4657

Two Scottsboro Negroes To Die

Advertiser
6-29-34
Montgomery, Ala.

Convictions Of Norris And Patterson Are Affirmed; Aug. 31 Execution Date

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Affirming for the second time judgment of a trial court in convicting Haywood Patterson and Clarence Norris two of the seven negro defendants in the so-called Scottsboro case, of criminally assaulting two young white women, the Alabama Supreme Court in decisions announced yesterday, set Friday, Aug. 31, as the date for execution of the death sentences imposed. Execution of both negroes on the date specified by the Morgan Circuit Court following their conviction had been suspended pending appeal. Holdings of the high court were unanimous in each decision.

Prosecution of the cases was directed at the trials and in the Supreme Courts of the State and the United States by Atty. Gen. Knight.

It is understood that counsel for both condemned men will immediately institute proceedings for the appeal of each case to the Supreme Court of the United States in an effort to have them again reviewed by that tribunal which reversed and remanded them on appeal from the original judgment of conviction on the ground of inadequate provision for counsel to represent the defendants in the trial court.

Though it is not yet definitely known, it is believed no effort will be made by the State to bring the other five defendants to trial in Morgan County on indictments now pending against them, until it is clear whether appeals will be taken from the decisions today to the U. S. Supreme Court. If they are, it is regarded as fairly certain trial of the remaining cases will await the outcome of the appeals.

In the decision today in the Patterson case, the Supreme Court sustained a motion to strike the bill of exceptions because it was not presented within the time required by law. The minutes show, it is recalled, the returning of the verdict and judgment of conviction on Dec. 1, 1933, and the pronouncement of sentence on Dec. 6, 1933. Under the Alabama law a period of 90 days after the date of judgment is allowed for the presenting of bills of exceptions. The point is stressed in opinion by Justice Virgil Bouldin, that the time for presenting bills of exceptions runs from the date of judgment of guilty, not from the date of sentence.

Waited Too Long

The bill of exceptions in this case, it is then recalled, was not filed within the 90-day period, not even on the 90th day, but on the 94th day. This was too late, it is ruled, unless the time was extended by the intervention of a motion for a new trial. The time was not so extended, it is then held. In this connection, it is cited, that a motion for new trial was filed Dec. 29, 1933, which was afterward stricken by the trial court on the ground that it was filed after the term of the court had expired, that thereby the judgment had become final, and the court was without jurisdiction to entertain, hear and pass upon a motion for new trial. The trial court's action in striking the motion was sustained.

Terms of trial courts in Alabama, it is recalled, run from the first Monday in January each year to the last Saturday in June, and from the first Monday after the fourth of July to and including the last Saturday before Christmas of every year. The same ruling is made with reference to the motion for new trial in the Norris case. In both instances it is held that the judgment had become final; the motion could not invoke the jurisdiction of the trial court; it could not be entertained and no order of continuance to a future day could give it vitality.

No Race Discrimination

In opinion in the Norris case by Justice Lucien D. Gardner, the high court upheld overruling by the trial judge of motion by defense counsel to quash the indictment on the ground that the rights of the defendant had been violated under the 14th amendment because negroes were excluded from the list from which the Grand Jury that returned the indictment was drawn and from the Grand Jury itself, solely by reason of their race and color. In conjunction with this ruling the opinion cites the holding of the U. S. Supreme Court in the case of Martin vs. Texas, to the effect that the mere fact that no one of the negro race was on the Grand Jury that returned the indictment does not suffice to show any discrimination. Authorities are all to the effect, it is pointed out, that a member of the negro race, party to a trial involving his life, liberty or property, cannot claim, as a matter of right, that his race shall have a representative on the jury and that a mixed jury in a particular case is not within the meaning of the constitution, necessary to the equal protection of the law.

The only right in this respect to which he is entitled, it is held, is "that in the selection of jurors to pass upon his life, liberty or property, there shall be no exclusion of his race and no discrimination against them because of their color." Proof before the trial judge was ample, it is declared, to sustain the view that the jury commissioners made no exclusion of any negro from the jury roll on account of his race or color, but that in the discharge of their duties it was not so much a matter of exclusion as of selection so as to obtain those best suited for jury service.

It is disclosed by the proof, it is here recalled, that the commissioners in discharge of their duties omitted from the jury roll more white male citizens of the county possessing the proper age qualifications than the county's entire negro population. There is no evidence, it is held, justifying the conclusion that in the preparation of the roll, any member of the negro race was rejected because of race or color.

Fraud Charges Dismissed

As to the insistence that the names of six or more negroes now appearing on the jury roll were fraudulently placed there, the court held this charge does not involve any member of the jury board in question, as it is insisted this was done after that board went out of office and relinquished all control over the books. It is also held that the insistence that the trial court deprived the defendant of the opportunity to prove discrimination, is wholly refuted by the record.

The proof clearly shows, it is ruled, that the commissioners fairly and honestly endeavored to discharge their duty and did not discriminate against the negro race in the selection of the jury list, and no provision of the Federal Constitution has been infringed. Regarding the insistence of prejudicial conduct on the part of the trial judge, it is ruled that while the judge properly interposed an occasional question, and may have on one or two occasions manifested slight impatience, the trial "appears to have been conducted with proper regard to all administrative rules as well as due regard for defendant's rights, and we find nothing in the conduct of the trial judge to merit any condemnation here."

Appeal To Be Taken To U. S. Supreme Court

NEW YORK, June 28.—(AP)—An appeal from the decision of the Alabama Supreme Court upholding the death sentences of Clarence Norris and Heywood Patterson will be taken to the United States Supreme Court, it was said today at the office of Samuel S. Leibowitz, chief defense counsel.

Leibowitz is on his way to Europe aboard the liner Champlain. His secretary said the attorney had definitely decided before he left to appeal to the Supreme Court in the event the Alabama courts upheld the death sentence.

The secretary said he would communicate with Leibowitz by wireless today. He added it was probable Leibowitz would decide on board ship when the appeal would be filed.

NEW YORK DAILY NEWS

JUN 29 1934

State Rejects 2 Scottsboro Boys' Appeals

Montgomery, Ala., June 28 (AP).—The Alabama Supreme Court today upheld the death sentences

Heyward Patterson

U. S. Supreme Court last chance.

of Clarence Norris and Heyward Patterson, colored defendants in the Scottsboro case, and set their date of execution for Friday, Aug. 31.

In the case of Patterson the court granted the motion of Attorney General Thomas E. Knight Jr. and struck from the record the bill of exceptions in the case, which contained all testimony presented in the lower courts.

The Attorney General had asked that the bill of exceptions be stricken out on the grounds that it was not properly filed within ninety days after final judgment in the lower courts.

Merits Not Considered.

With the bill of exceptions stricken, the Supreme Court was restricted solely to the court records and was unable to consider the merits of the case.

In the Norris case Associate Justice Lucien D. Gardner overruled the contention of defense counsel that colored persons had been systematically excluded from the jury.

"We are of the opinion the proof clearly shows," the justice said, "that the jury commissioners did fairly and honestly endeavor to discharge their duty and did not in fact discriminate against the Negro race in the selection of the jury list, and that no provision of the Federal Constitution has been infringed."

The doomed men, two of the original nine defendants in the Scottsboro casefi were convicted of attacking Victoria Price, young white woman, on a freight train near Paint Rock, Ala., in 1931.

Deny a Racial Bar.

Answering the contention, in the Norris case, that colored persons were systematically excluded from the jury, Justice Gardner pointed out that there were only 666 colored persons above the age of 21 in Jackson County, where Norris and Paterson were indicted, out of a total population of 36,881.

Justice Gardner stated that the fact that no colored persons had served on juries in Jackson County for many years was not conclusive proof that they had been excluded from the Grand Jury which returned the Scottsboro indictments because of their race and color.

The entire court concurred in both decisions. An appeal to the United States Supreme Court is considered.

Leibowitz to Carry Fight to Highest Court.

Samuel Leibowitz will carry the appeals of Haywood Patterson and Clarence Norris, Scottsboro defendants whose convictions were upheld by the Alabama Supreme Court, to the United States Supreme Court.

Leibowitz is on his way to Europe on a vacation, but an office associate indicated an appeal would be based on the theory that the Fourteenth Amendment was violated because no colored persons were on the jury ~~list of Jackson~~ County, Ala.

Clarence Norris

Doomed by highest State Court.

New York Times

JUN 29 1934

2 SCOTTSBORO BOYS LOSE NEWEST FIGHT

Alabama High Court Upholds Death Sentences—Case Going to Supreme Court.

LAWYERS PREPARE APPEAL

Announce They Will File Immediate Plea to Block Execution in August.

Special to THE NEW YORK TIMES.

MONTGOMERY, Ala., June 28.—The Alabama Supreme Court today by unanimous opinion upheld the death sentences of Heywood Patterson and Clarence Norris, two of the seven Scottsboro case Negroes convicted of taking part in an attack on two white women in a freight car near Paint Rock in 1931.

Date for execution of the sentences was set for Friday, Aug. 31.

The decision is the second that has been made by the Alabama Supreme Court on trials involving the two defendants, in each of which the death sentence was upheld.

The court sustained the plea of Thomas E. Knight, Attorney General, who moved that the bill of exceptions listed by defense counsel be stricken from the records in the case of Patterson, in that the bill had not been filed within ninety days after final judgment by the trial court.

In sustaining the motion the court could not consider the transcript of testimony.

In this connection it was cited that a motion for a new trial was filed Dec. 29, 1933, which was afterward stricken off by the trial court on the ground that it was filed after the term of court had expired, that thereby the judgment had become final, and the court was without jurisdiction to entertain a motion for a new trial. The trial court's action was sustained.

The same ruling was made on the motion for a new trial for Norris.

In the opinion in the Norris case, prepared by Justice Lucien D. Gardner, the high court upheld the trial judge in overruling a motion by defense counsel to quash the indictment on the ground that the rights of the defendant had been violated under the Fourteenth Amendment because Negroes were excluded from the grand jury list solely because of their race and color.

The opinion cites a United States Supreme Court ruling which held that the mere fact that no one of the Negro race was on the grand jury that returned the indictment does not suffice to show any discrimination.

Proof before the trial judge was ample, it is declared, to sustain the view that the jury commissioners made no exclusion of any Negro from the jury roll on account of his race or color, but that in the discharge of their duties it was not so much a matter of exclusion as of selection so as to obtain those best suited for jury service.

Lawyers Plan an Appeal.

The decision of the Alabama Supreme Court upholding the death sentences of Clarence Norris and Heywood Patterson will be appealed to the United States Supreme Court, Osmond K. Fraenkel, 76 Beaver Street, defense attorney in charge of the appeal, and the office of Samuel S. Leibowitz, 225 Broadway, of defense counsel, announced.

In commenting, Mr. Fraenkel said:

"I cannot comment on the decision in detail until I have seen the text. However, papers will be immediately prepared requesting the Supreme Court of the United States to review the decision. An appeal will be made to one of the justices of that court for a stay of the scheduled execution pending the determination on the appeal for review."

The International Labor Defense, which has taken a leading part in the effort to liberate the Negroes, issued a statement setting forth that between April, 1931, and June, 1934, the sum of $55,194.92 was raised and spent on the case. Of this total, $41,100.29 came from the I. L. D. and other contributors were the National Committee for the Defense of Political Prisoners, the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People and the American Civil Liberties Union, the statement said.

ILD Appeals for Funds To Immediately Appeal Monstrous Decision

CALLS FOR PROTEST

Court Ignores Proof of Boys' Innocence

BULLETIN

Daily Worker

6-29-34

NEW YORK.—An immediate appeal against the monstrous decision of the Alabama Supreme Court will be undertaken, the International Labor Defense announced last night, at the same time appealing for an intensification of the mass fight to save the Scottsboro boys and for funds to prepare and conduct the appeal. It urged that protest telegrams be sent at once from organizations and meetings to the Alabama Supreme Court and Gov. B. M. Miller, both at Montgomery, Ala.; and to President Roosevelt, demanding the immediate, unconditional and safe release of the Scottsboro boys.

* * *

MONTGOMERY, Ala., June 28.—The lynch death verdicts against Haywood Patterson and Clarence Norris were uphelp today by the Alabama Supreme Court. In a unanimous decision, the high court of the Alabama capitalists and landlords set August 31 as the date for the legal murder of the two innocent Scottsboro defendants, following the consecutive defeats by world-wide mass protests of four previous attempts to burn the boys in the electric chair.

Follows Herndon Decision

The Alabama decision follows within a few weeks the infamous decision of the Georgia Supreme Court upholding the sentence of 18 to 20 years on the chain gang against Angelo Herndon, and paving the way to reopen the attempt to burn Ann Burlak, Herbert Newton and four other labor organizers in the electric chair.

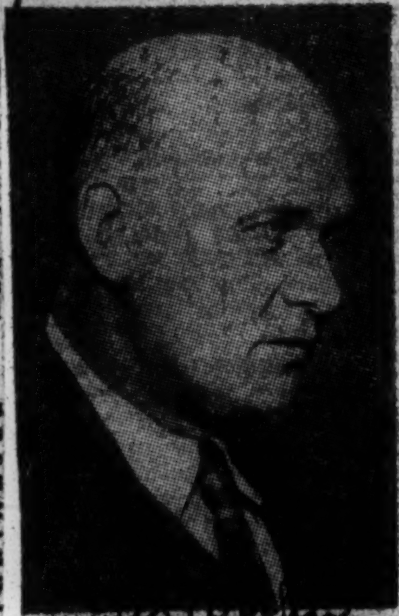
Patterson and Norris were the first two of the nine boys to be re-tried under the decision wrested from the U. S. Supreme Court by the world-wide mass fight against the hideous frame-up, mock trial and death sentences against seven of the Negro lads. The present decision throws all nine boys into the shadow of the electric chair.

The court actually ruled only on the appeal for Clarence Norris. The appeal for Patterson was thrown out entirely on the pretext that it was filed outside of the limit of the 90 days allowed, although a notation on the Decatur decision, in Judge Callahan's own handwriting, dates the decision as of Dec. 6, 1933, the day he passed sentence of death against Patterson. Counting from this date, the appeal was filed in time. Attorney General Knight, however, raised the phoney technicality that it should have been filed within 90 days from the date of the jury's verdict, Dec. 1. This fraudulent contention was evidently upheld by the court.

Court Ignores Facts to Uphold Verdicts

"We find no error to reverse," the Alabama lynch tribunal ruled today, denying the appeal of the International Labor Defense and ignoring the open prejudice of trial judge, prosecutor and the all-white jury at the re-trial of Patterson and Norris in Decatur, Ala., last Fall. It ignored likewise the testimony of Ruby Bates, former star prosecution witness, repudiating her previous testimony as perjury forced on her by state officials, and the admission forced by the indignation of workers and intellectuals from Judge James A. Horton, who presided at the first re-trial of Patterson, that the evidence was overwhelmingly in favor of the defendant.

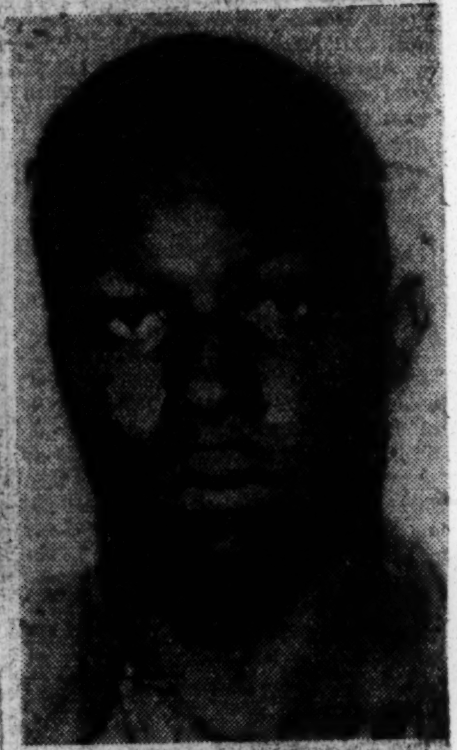
Lives of Both Threatened by Lynch Courts



ERNEST THAELMANN

Heroic leader of the German Communist Party, facing summary trial and death at hands of Nazi barbarians, through the newly created "Peoples Court."

6-29-34



CLARENCE NORRIS

One of the Scottsboro Boys.

Big Scottsboro Rally Today In Negro Harlem

Daily Worker

Youths Demand Freedom of Boys, Herndon, Thaelmann

NEW YORK.—July 4, Independence Day, will be celebrated by New York young workers and students in the only proper spirit, by a revolutionary demonstration against ruling-class terror and for the freedom of the nine innocent Scottsboro boys.

7-4-34

The demonstration, called by the Young Communist League, will be held in the streets of Harlem, starting at 10 a. m. today from 126th St. and Lenox Ave. Speakers will include I. Little, District Organizer of the Y. C. L., and Lou Cooper, leader of the Trade Union Unity Council youth committee.

In the last few days dozens of open air meetings have been held by the Y. C. L. Fifty thousand leaflets have been distributed by the League, and a like number by organizations of adult workers who are supporting this action for the freedom of the Scottsboro boys.

Lynchings-1934
Legal Punishment for Rape.

Alabama

4658

ALABAMA JUSTICE EXPOSED AGAIN

Argus
7-6-34
St. Louis, Mo.

The Alabama State Supreme Court has again affirmed the death sentence of Heywood Patterson and Clarence Norris two Negro youths, who for the second time have been convicted of an alleged assault upon two white women. At the time the endictment was returned, there were nine Negro youths implicated in what is called the "Scottsboro Case."

Following these indictments, these youths were tried by an Alabama court during which time state troops milled in and out of the courtroom, they being stationed there to prevent mob violence; not because these boys were guilty nor because the prosecution thought they were guilty, but because they were Negroes and their accusers were white.

The mob, as mobs usually do, clamored for the lives of these boys. It was bloodthirsty. The lives of the judge, prosecutor and jurors were in danger if any verdict but "guilty" was returned. It could be readily seen that a lynching was inevitable, even if it had to be a "legal lynching." Therefore, the verdict of death in the electric chair.

This conviction and the extreme penalty imposed upon these boys in the light of public evidence caused people outside of the state to take cognizance of the case. It was readily seen that these boys were being "railroaded" to the electric chair. Their doom was certain, unless some outside intereference was forthcoming. Thus, the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People undertook to look into the case, not as a matter of "meddling" but in the interest of justice. Subsequently, the International Labor Defense came into the case and the latter defended these boys through the state courts and the United States Supreme Court. With these organizations interfering the courts and the people of Alabama were more determined to kill these innecent boys; so the situation developed to this point. With no outside interefence the boys were doomed to death. Being defended by outsiders, the state became determined to kill them. This determination is what may be termed "Alabama Justice." It has been shown throughout both trials, particularly the last trial of Patterson and Norris, that no consideration was given the evidence in the case as usually given in the trials of accused persons, especially if the offense called for capital punishment. The judge on the bench in granting a new trial cited the fact that the state's chief witness was a woman of "loose morals" and that her co-accuser in the first trial had repented of her sins against the innocent boys and repudiated her testimony; yet the jury convcited the boys. In ordinary proceedings jurors are instructed that, if by the evidence or through the pleadings of defense council any doubt is raised in their minds as to the guilt or innocence of the accused, they are to give the defense the benefit of the doubt. Judging from the verdict returned in the cases in question, the jurors and each of them must have been so blinded by prejudice and so fixed in their opinion that they could not see any evidence of innocence, though it shone as plainly as the noonday sun. As a matter of fact, the prosecutor admitted, in his plea for conviction, that the state was depending upon racial prejudice for conviction when he referred to the defense council as a Jew and using Jew money from New York.

During the past two years many angles have developed in this case which have attracted international attention. Civilized people all over the world have been made acquainted with Alabama justice. Sympathy for these innocent boys has been expressed, not only from the so-called outsiders but from many of the better and more thoughtful people in Alabama and they have urged the state to free these boys as a matter of right and justice.

Of course, an appeal will be taken to the United States Supreme Court. No doubt that tribunal will, as it did before, adjudge that the boys have not had a fair trial which, of course may mean that the whole thing should be gone over again. In the meanwhile, these Negro youths are languishing in jail and, according to reports, are cruelly treated because of the "unfavorable publicity and censure" which has come upon the state because of their incarceration.

We hold and contend that the interference on the part of public opinion and legal defense has greatly mitigated the sin and shame on Alabama justice. Had the state executed these nine innocent boys what good or pleasure would have come to it? Executing innocent people just because it can certainly doesn't reflect any credit upon the state but, rather, expose Alabama justice.

Playwright, Down To Aid Scottsboro Negroes, Is Arrested At Birmingham

Montgomery, Ala.

BIRMINGHAM, ALA., July 5.—(AP)—John Howard Lawson, New York playwright who headed a committee here to intercede for the negro defendants in the "Scottsboro case" and to demand "civil rights" of the city police department late this afternoon, was arrested on charges of printing and distributing libelous and malicious literature.

Lawson, who with his party had planned to return to Atlanta tonight in connection with the Herndon case, was released under $300 bond pending a hearing in Recorder's Court tomorrow morning.

The arrest followed more than an hour of discussion with Commissioner of Public Safety W. O. Downs on the rights of various organizations to distribute their literature, some of which advocates "social equality."

The charge was the outgrowth of an article in The Daily Worker, printed in New York, in which Lawson had described the Jefferson County Court of Misdemeanors and Felonies, presided over by Judge H. B. Abernathy, as a "kangaroo court" and a "Jim Crow court."

In the article Lawson had charged police with arresting him and then putting him on a train and ordering him not to come back. The playwright was arrested in the Jefferson County courthouse several weeks ago with Alexander Racolin, an attorney, where he had gone as "an observer."

The committee headed by Lawson had demanded that Sheriff J. F. Hawkins remove the seven negroes in the "Scottsboro case" confined in the Jefferson County jail from "solitary confinement," and give them other privileges.

"The Scottsboro negroes are being treated as well as other prisoners," said Sheriff Hawkins, "and in view of their conduct in the past, I don't see fit to grant them any special privileges."

The "Scottsboro case" defendants are confined in a cell block separated from other prisoners, because they had attempted to fight other prisoners and fight among themselves, Sheriff Hawkins told the committee, and cited other unruly acts on their parts.

The negroes are confined in two cells at night in the jail atop the $2,000,000 courthouse, but during the day time are permitted to congregate in the day room of that cell block.

In his talks here, Lawson described himself as "a radical leader who believes in many communist ideas," but denied he is a communist.

He told Commissioner Downs that the communist party is "not a revolutionary organization and does not incite riots."

Lawson was the only member of the party placed under arrest.

Scottsboro

Afro-American
7-7-34

For three years the Scottsboro case has been won and lost so often that it is difficult to keep track of its ramifications.

Last Thursday, for the second time, the highest court of the State of Alabama ruled that two of the eight boys must die August 31, for alleged massed assault upon two white girls.

The New York office of the International Labor Defense announced that an appeal will be made for a second time to the United States Supreme Court. The first appeal resulted in reversing and remanding the cases for trial.

Significant is the opinion of Alabama's highest court in approving a state-wide lily-white jury system. Said the court:

"The discretion as to the composition of the jury roll must be vested in some one, and in this state our statute has imposed this duty," the jurist said, "on jury commissioners appointed by the governor. Presumably these officers faithfully discharge their duty."

Important is the word "presumably." The question whether or not the jury system was faithfully and legally administered was the question at issue, and any opinion that would be honest should inquire into the matter to determine the status rather than to stop at any presumption.

Fortunately there is hope for the eight boys who have spent three years in prison while the agitation for their freedom has extended round the world.

Our presumption is that the U.S. court which has once given Alabama courts a black eye will do so again.

LIBERALS PLAN TO SEE NEGROES

Scottsboro Case Interview, Strike Violence Probe Visitors' Object

Birmingham, Ala.

A committee of New York liberals is scheduled tomorrow to visit the "Scottsboro negroes" in county jail and to investigate labor conditions in the ore strike area, according to announcement from the National Committee for the Defense of Political Prisoners.

The party will come here from Atlanta, where yesterday it visited the cell of Angelo Herndon, negro, and left him a Russian dictionary and a copy of Anthony Bimba's "History of the American Working Class" to read as he awaited outcome of his appeal to the U. S. supreme court from an 18 to 20 year sentence on a charge of inciting an insurrection.

Herndon had complained that authorities of the Atlanta jail would not permit him to have reading matter. The visitors were told by Atlanta jail officials that Communistic literature is banned.

Heading the committee is John Howard Lawson, playwright and author. With him are Winifred Chappell, of the Methodist Federation of Social Service; William Rollins, Jr., author; Martin Russak, editor of "Textile Voice;" Herbert Abrons, Southern field representative of American Civil Liberties union, and Henry Serber.

In Birmingham, according to advavnce notice from New York, the committee will "investigate the series of bombings and attacks on pickets in conjunction with the ore strike there." Police Commissioner W. O. Downs, Police Chief Luther Hollums and Sheriff James F. Hawkins will be visited by the delegation, the notice said.

Hearing Set For 3 Doomed Negroes

Hearing of the petitions for commutation for Frank Jackson, Thomas Brown and Robert Davis, condemned negroes under sentence to be electrocuted at Kilby Prison on Friday, Aug. 3, were set yesterday by Gov. Miller to take place before himself and members of the State Board of Pardons Tuesday afternoon July 17 in his private office at the Capitol. At the same time letters were forwarded by the Chief Executive to the trial judge and solicitor in each case, asking for their recommendations.

Frank Jackson with another negro, George Meadows, was convicted of highway robbery, for holding up and robbing a white man and his young woman companion on the South Court Street extension near Montgomery, late last Summer. Both negroes were also charged with attempting to criminally assault the young woman. Meadows confessed, declaring Jackson was his accomplice in the crime.

No appeal was taken in Meadows's case and he was executed at the time specified by the trial court in sentencing him to death. Jackson appealed to the Supreme Court of Alabama which recently affirmed the circuit court's judgment and set Aug. 3 as the execution date.

Thomas Brown was tried and found guilty in the Morgan Circuit Court of criminally attacking a white woman after dragging her into a corn field and threatening to kill her with an open knife held at her throat. He too appealed to the Supreme Court, which affirmed the trial court's action.

The Supreme Court also recently affirmed the circuit court's judgment in the case of Robert Davis, convicted in Lowndes County of the murder of a member of his own race.

NEW YORK
WORLD
Telegram

ALABAMA COURT REJECTS APPEAL OF TWO NEGROES

Supreme Tribunal Sets Date for Execution of Norris and Patterson.

JURY SELECTION UPHELD

Leibowitz Announces He Will Take Case to Highest Federal Court.

By the United Press.

MONTGOMERY, Ala., June 28.—The Alabama Supreme Court today affirmed the conviction and death sentences of Haywood Patterson and Clarence Norris, Negroes, convicted last November of complicity in the Scottsboro assault case.

Date of execution was set as August 31.

Both Patterson and Norris were found guilty of criminal assault last December after a second trial and sentenced to death. They and seven other Negro youths had been accused of an attack on two white girls, Ruby Bates and Victoria Price.

The Bates girl later denied she had been attacked and testified for Patterson and Norris.

Originally eight of the nine Negroes had been convicted and sentenced to death but the United States Supreme Court set aside the verdicts on the ground that prejudice had been established at the trial.

Two other defendants in the case are minors, subject to action in the juvenile courts.

Exclusion of Negroes From Jury Is Denied.

By the Associated Press.

MONTGOMERY, Ala., June 28.—In the case of Patterson, the Supreme Court struck out the bill of exceptions in the case, which contained all testimony presented in the lower courts, on the ground that it had not been filed properly.

Under this ruling, the court was restricted solely to lower court records and was unable to consider the merits of the case.

In the Norris case, the contention of defense counsel that Negroes had been systematically excluded from the jury was overruled.

The court ruling stated that the fact that no Negroes had served on juries in Jackson county for many years was not conclusive proof that Negroes had been excluded from the Grand Jury which returned the Scottsboro indictments because of their race.

"The importance of calling for such high service men of intelligence, character and sound judgment cannot be too greatly stressed," the opinion added.

Leibowitz to Appeal to U. S. Supreme Court.

Samuel Leibowitz, counsel for Patterson and Norris, will appeal to the United States Supreme Court from the Alabama Supreme Court decisions, his office told the United Press today.

Mr. Leibowitz now is en route to Europe on vacation.

Writer Arrested At Birmingham

Criminal Libel Charged To Radical Author Of Story Abusing Jefferson Court

BIRMINGHAM, ALA., July 6.—(AP)—For the third time within two months John Howard Lawson, New York playwright and self-styled "radical leader," today was arrested here, the warrant this time charging criminal libel.

After the warrant had been served and he had been granted his liberty on $300 bail, Lawson declared he was going to make an issue of the case, and termed it "straight censorship" and "something that strikes directly at freedom of speech and press."

The charges grew out of an article written by Lawson in The Daily Worker, New York Communist organ, on May 18, 1934, after he had been arrested here on an investigation charge, when he appeared at the trial of six alleged communist organizers before Judge H. B. Abernethy in Jefferson County Court of Misdemeanors and Felonies.

The warrant quoted the first paragraph of the story appearing under Lawson's byline, which read:

"For the first time in the history of Alabama Jim-Crow Court, the program of the Communist Party rang out today in Judge Abernethy's kangaroo court as Ralston (Harold Ralston, admitted communist organizer who was taken in the police "red drive") and five other workers militantly defended themselves against the frameup attempt of the steel bosses."

Lawson was taken into custody at the Courthouse on that day, but, after being taken to police headquarters and fingerprinted, was released and told to get out of town.

The six men appearing before Judge Abernethy were arrested in a raid on a fashionable Southside apartment by the "red squad" of the Birmingham Police Force, during a drive launched by Chief of Police Luther E. Hollums to rid the city "of Communists, Reds, and others seeking to stir up trouble."

The warrant under which Lawson was arrested today was sworn to by Detective Moser and was made returnable in Jefferson Circuit Court. The case probably will not be set for hearing before September or October, as the criminal division is in recess.

Conviction under the charge would draw a maximum penalty of six months at hard labor and a fine of $500.

Shortly after the warrant charging criminal libel was served, Lawson, at liberty under bond, left for New York with other members of his party who had come here to intercede for the negro defendants in the "Scottsboro case" and for "civil rights" for radicals in Birmingham.

The committee which Lawson headed represented the Civil Liberties Union and the League for the Defense of Political Prisoners.

Demands that the defendants in the "Scottsboro case" be removed from the cell block in which they are segregated was refused by Sheriff J. F. Hawkins, who said the negroes had abused their privileges by trying to fight other prisoners and fighting among themselves.

The demand for the right to circulate radical pamphlets and The Daily Worker here also was denied by Commissioner of Public Safety W. O. Dcwns, with whom Lawson just had conferred yesterday when he was arrested on charges of circulating vile and malicious literature.

ON ARRESTING A PROFESSIONAL JACKASS

Mr. John Howard Lawson, who wrote the Uncle Tom's Cabin of the Scottsboro Crusade, the [illegible] propaganda drama, "They Shall Not Die," is no ordinary jackass. Mr. Lawson is a professional jackass. He makes it pay.

Mr. Lawson has been arrested in Birmingham. And we are sorry. We are sorry first of all because the Birmingham police are making Alabama the laughing-stock of the nation. And we are sorry too because we do not believe that Mr. Lawson's offense is criminal under the Constitution and we believe his arrest, besides being indiscreet, is illegal.

Mr. Lawson, be it remembered, came to Alabama with a little notebook, a lead pencil and a dramatist's imagination. He went back to his Harlem-inspired attic in New York and wrote a play, based more or less on what he wished a New York audience to believe was the truth about the Scottsboro trials.

Not content with giving the sentimentalists their money's worth in a picture of the barbaric treatment of minority races in this State, Playwright Lawson turned his talents toward the magazine field. He wrote several articles exaggerating the weaknesses of the Alabama courts.

But let us forget Alabama and Scottsboro for a moment and look into Mr. Lawson's character.

Lawson is a clean-cut case for the psychoanalytical clinic. He has an over-dose of martyritis. His philosophy seems to be: "I don't care what you say about me just so it's abusive." The man thrives on abuse. It feeds his complex as well as his stomach. In that respect he is a professional martyr who enjoys his business.

What the Birmingham police officers who arrested Lawson perhaps do not know is that only last week he published a book in which he tore into the literary and dramatic critics with zeal in which only one who loves return abuse is capable.

Mr. Lawson knew that he could not get himself cussed quicker than by assaulting contemporary literary and dramatic critics—gentlemen who can dish it out but who can not take it.

It was but a trick of the professional jackass.

And so is the successful police and court baiting in Birmingham one of his tricks. The fellow, now out on bail, doubtless is having the laugh of his life at the expense of the dignity of the State of Alabama.

As we gather it Mr. Lawson was arrested not for anything he DID in Birmingham—but for something he said or wrote.

We do not believe in jailing men for what they say or write about a community—or about a court. After all, one should use common sense in punishing persons "guilty" of contempt of the courts.

The arrest of Lawson, we know, pleased the people of Birmingham and, in fact, the whole State. Alabama does not like Lawson. It does not like what he says and what he writes.

Still when the police department—though it must have suffered much under the insulting goadings from the professional jackass—puts the largest city in Alabama in the position of a municipality which jails men the natives do not like, we are inclined to view any attempt at promoting understanding between the sections as futile.

Horseflies are more annoying than dangerous.

So are professional jackasses.

Lynchings-1934
6
Legal Punishment for Rape.
6

Alabama

4659

From A Scottsboro Mother

Atlanta, Ga,

Dear Friend and Fellow Workers:

I want to give thanks to the working class both white and black that belong to our great world-wide movement the I. L. D. for the good work that you all has done for th[illegible] my son and others that I have been reading about for more than two years. I can't say any more than that because I did not know anything about the I. L. D. until my son, Olen was framed up. But I can gladly say today I am very well acquainted with it and glad I am. Maybe I will be a little help to the movement. I never has been able to tell anyone just how I do feel towards the movement. But I will say this. I am with the I. L. D. as long as I live because I made a promise to one of the comrades that I would fight for my son's life side by side. And I meant that the comrade was Dave Daron. [Dave Doran, of the Y. C. L.—Ed. Note] He was the first one that come to my home in Monroe, Ga. He told me if you all mothers will stick to the I. L. D. we can save your son and they has did that so far. I know that because I talk with my son, Olen three weeks ago nad if the I. L. D. had not fought so hard they would have been dead. Soon will be three years and to think some old Mrs. Hucks from Birmingham have the nerve to visit the jail and ask the boys to let the N. A. A. C. P. help them. She says we can't do anything for you unless you all say so.

I will tell the world I am not willing for them to speak about my son unless they join hand with the I. L. D. Now if they agree with us as we first ask them to do it o.k. with me for them to work with us. If not, to hell with the N. A. A. C. P. because anybody nowadays don't feel that the world should be together, They don't need to be in the world.

MRS. VIOLA MONTGOMERY.

P. S. If this government was any good it would not stand for so many lynching and so much other dirty work to go on.

Daily Worker
4-28-34
New York

Eufaula, Ala. Tribune
May 7, 1934

Ignorant

A delegation of some 200 Dartmouth students have wired Governor Miller, demanding "immediate dismissal" of the negro defendants in the Scottsboro case.

They based their "demand" upon a section of Judge Horton's decision on appeal in the first trial, in which he made reference to evidence preponderating in favor of the defendants.

These over-eager and enthusiastic young college men need a few lessons apparently in the most elemental facts about court procedure.

They seem ignorant of the fact that Governor Miller has absolutely no power or authority with respect to freeing the defendants.

Their case has not been passed upon by the state supreme court, or, in case the verdict of the lower court is upheld there, appeal has not been taken to the U. S. supreme court, where their attorney has announced he will carry it.

Governor Miller has nothing in the world to do with the case, and will not until it reaches him, after it has gone through all the courts, in a plea for pardon, or for a commutation of sentence.

These young Dartmouth students should keep their mouths shut, and refrain from resolutions to Alabama's governor, until they learn a little more about court procedure.

Their ignorance reflects upon them and their college.—Huntsville Times.

FRONT ROYAL, VA.
NORTHERN VA. DAILY
APR 27 1934

MOVE FOR PUBLIC SYMPATHY
(Suffolk News Herald)

Samuel D. Leibowitz, of New York, chief counsel for seven Negro defendants in the now celebrated "Scottsboro case", in a statement widely published in the press of the country, charged these prisoners were "placed in solitary confinement on rumphed up charges, nearly starved and threatened with death by one of the guards." The men are confined in the jail at Birmingham for trial on charges of having assaulted two white women, one of whom has since repudiated her first statement that they were mistreated.

Directly upon receipt of their attorney's complaint the Jefferson county grand jury made a thorough investigation of the matter, calling the men themselves to testify. They told the jury they received the same food as other prisoners in the county jail and there was evidence to convince the jury that the other items in the complaint were groundless. The men become involved in a fight among themselves, it appears, and so were separated for their own good and the peace of the prison community.

We have no doubt there was complaint, probably largely justifiable, against both the amount and quality of the food served them. It is known to be notoriously bad and pitifully scant and the farther south one goes the worse it gets. But there is rarely any discrimination against prisoners, all sharing alike in what they get. But even then the fare is probably far better and more abundant than that to which the complains have been accustomed. Public welfare agencies, however, would be rendering a good service if they turned their attention to this phase of prison life and that goes for Virginia too.

But there is a faint suspicion that Mr Liebowitz was more concerned about other things than the immediate circumstances against which he protested. Making the matter public in the press of the north was doubtless a move for sympathy and after that comes money. Be it remembered, he is employed in the defense of the accused Negroes by an organization which depends on financial support by the public. It's a good way to stir up interest and shake down the shekels.

Unfortunately, the impression still prevails among many good and kindly people in other sections of the country that the colored man is badly treated in the south and that justice is denied him in the courts as well as in other citizenship relation. Of course it is absured and a gross libel of the south, but millions do not know it and there's the rub. Extreme cases of cruelty, such as lynchings, are accepted as the rule rather than the exception. The truth is, not one man in a hundred in the south approves of mob-murder. Such sensational publicity as attributed to the New York lawyer will not improve the situation or relations between the two sections.

'When My Free Days Comes...' Writes Charlie Weems, Scottsboro Defendant

Birmingham, Ala. Jefferson County Jail,

Dear Comrade:

Your letter was received today and which had enclose $2 and was very glad to get it and also think you and all of the comrades worked for it, And I do believe that all of the comrades would enjoy reading a nice letter from each one of us poor innocent Boy's and I would like to write them all but I am not educated enough to do so. But I hope that they won't think hard of me for not doing so. But I hope when my free day come I will be able to explain everything that they have done for me and will do everything I can to show my appreciation, and please try to send me the shoes early as possible for Mine aren't any good. Send size 10, please, Sir, and give all the comrades my best wishes.

Comradely yours,

(Signed) CHARLIE WEEMS.

Daily Worker
New York N.Y.
5-15-34.

The Scottsboro Appeal

SCOTTSBORO again faces the world.

Tomorrow, this world-famous case of nine innocent Negro boys fighting for their lives against the frame-up of a century-old lynch system, comes once again in its three-year fight before the Alabama Supreme Court.

Tomorrow the last Decatur lynch verdict will be appealed by the attorneys of the International Labor Defense.

The Alabama Supreme Court is a lynchers' court. It will gladly do the bidding of its Southern plantation masters.

In this Court sits Judge Knight, father of that Prosecutor Knight who wrung the Decatur death verdict from a poisoned jury, with a malignant frenzy of race hatred.

If it is not stopped, this Alabama Court will doom the nine boys to death. There is only one thing that can stop it, the force that alone has kept the boys alive, out of the hands of the executioner—the force of mass protest. If this mass protest, if this mass vigilance is relaxed for one single moment, the lynchers will take their toll of the boys' lives as surely as a tiger leaps to the kill.

What each and every one of us does at this moment will, in the aggregate, determine the final fate of the nine Scottsboro boys.

Telegrams should be rushed at once to Governor Miller of Alabama, to the Alabama Supreme Court,

Daily Worker
5-24-34
New York, N.Y.

at Montgomery, Ala.

Scottsboro meetings should be called in the unions, in the shops, and neighborhoods demanding the immediate release of the Scottsboro boys!

Rush funds for the defense to the I.L.D., 80 E. 11th St., Room 430, New York City.

Ala. Supreme Court Bars Wires as Hearing on Scottsboro Opens

BULLETIN

NEW YORK.—The Alabama Supreme Court has threatened to bring legal action against the telegraph companies if they deliver any Scottsboro protest messages to the court, the Western Union and Postal Telegraph informed the National Committee for the Release of Political Prisoners yesterday.

The telegraph companies now say they will refuse to accept any Scottsboro protest telegrams to the Court.

Daily Worker

This action of the Supreme Court and of the telegraph companies is a direct violation of the constitutional right of protest and petition.

5-26-34
New York N.Y.

MONTGOMERY, Ala., May 25.—Hearing on the appeal against the lynch death verdicts against Haywood Patterson and Clarence Norris, the first two of the Scottsboro boys to be re-tried under the decision wrested by the world-wide mass protest from the U. S. Supreme Court, opened before the Alabama Supreme Court today.

Osmond Fraenkel and Samuel Leibowitz are arguing the appeals for the International Labor Defense. The vicinity of the court was crowded by Negro workers as the latest chapter in the historic mass fight against lynching and Negro oppression, opened in the old capital of the slave Confederacy. Protest wires, demanding the release of the boys, are pouring in on teh court from all parts of the world.

Systematic exclusion of Negroes from juries, forgery of names of Negroes on the Scottsboro panel in an attempt to show that Negroes were considered for jury service, will be among the issues raised by the I.L.D. attorneys in demanding a reversal of the death verdicts and new trials for the boys.

LOWELL, MASS.
COURIER CITIZEN

MAY 5 1934

FEDERAL INTERFERENCE.

One reason for the superior efficiency of British criminal procedure is the greater simplicity of its court framework. In particular it is not complicated by any questions of national and local jurisdiction. On the other hand, ingenious lawyers in this country can manage to raise a federal question which will serve to delay trial, or the execution of a sentence, although the point may be so utterly frivolous that the judges will give it only the briefest consideration.

In perhaps one case out of a thousand, a matter of substantial justice will be involved—such as the appeal of the Scottsboro' Negroes. In most of the cases the federal courts ultimately refuse jurisdiction; and even in the less common event of a successful appeal, the error of the state court is often of little importance in its bearing on the merits of the case.

Just now, the federal government is contemplating unprecedented activity in co-operating with state police for the running down of crime. It is not very consistent that the same power should interfere to protect the accused after he has been caught. Of course it is out of the question that the federal courts should refuse to take cognizance of defendants' rights under the national Constitution; but it is possible that statutory provisions need to be overhauled with a view to cutting out any unnecessary provisions that hamper the states in their prosecutions.

District Judge James M. Morton, for example, in refusing to interfere with the progress of the Needham bank robbery case, has suggested that there was a possibility that the whole proceeding would be declared void, [illegible]se the prosecution had contin[illegible] before final adjudication of the federal suit to restrain it. It appears that this result is threatened, not in accord with any constitutional principle, but in consequence of an act of Congress. Now it is manifestly against public policy that the federal power should be used to delay the process of the state courts, except, perhaps where irreparable harm is threatened, or where the federal power claims original jurisdiction. It is enough if all necessary procedure is furnished by which the ultimate rights of the parties under the federal Constitution can be determined. If this act of Congress is to be interpreted in the way Judge Morton suggests, it should be amended.

Dimitroff's Mother Asks Masses Save Scottsboro 9

Daily Worker
6-1-34

Urges Raise Demand in All Meetings, and Anti-Nazi Actions

New York.
N.Y.

WORKERS CAN DO IT

"World Solidarity Is Their Only Hope"

NEW YORK.—"Do for the mothers of the Scottsboro boys what you did for me. Restore their sons to them. International solidarity can and must do this."

From the Soviet Union where she is recuperating from the ordeal of the Nazi attempt to murder her heroic son, the aged mother of George Dimitroff sends this ringing appeal to the workers of the whole world to save the nine innocent Scottsboro boys. Mrs. Dimitroff's appeal follows, in full:

"To the toiling masses of the world!

"It was your many acts of solidarity, your protest meetings and demonstrations in all parts of the world, your rallying to the support of the framed-up victims of the Reichstag fire, that compelled Hitler to release Taneff, Popoff and my son, George Dimitroff. For this I do not find words to express my gratitude. But I want you to know that you have made me very happy.

International Solidarity Can Open Prison Doors

"It was you who forced an unwilling court to bring in a verdict of "not guilty." And when Goering declared his intention of keeping them in prison regardless, it was your mighty protests and the act of the Soviet government in making Dimitroff, Taneff, and Popoff citizens of the toiler's Fatherland, that forced open the prison doors and restored them to freedom. You have thus brought home to me more fully than ever before what a mighty power there is in International Solidarity. It is able to hold executioners at bay. It opens prison doors. That is what you have so deeply impressed upon my mind.

"And now I want to raise my voice in behalf of the nine innocent Scottsboro Negro boys in the U. S. A. They have been held in jail in Alabama for more than three years under constant threat of death in the electric chair or at the hands of a lynch mob, thirsting for their blood. Their only hope is in International Solidarity. Two of the boys, Haywood Patterson and Clarence Norris, have again been condemned to death. Their cases have been appealed to the Alabama Supreme Court.

"I, mother of George Dimitroff, therefore appeal to you, toilers of the world, to join this movement and demand the immediate, unconditional and safe release of the innocent Negro boys.

"When you demand the release of Ernst Thaelmann, leader of the heroic Communist Party of Germany, and the tens of thousands of anti-fascists languishing in prisons and concentration camps in Germany and Austria, also demand the release of the Scottsboro boys.

"Send letters and resolutions to President Roosevelt at Washington and to the Supreme Court of Alabama at Montgomery, Alabama, that they must at once order the liberation of the innocent Negro boys.

"Do for the mothers of the Scottsboro boys what you did for me. Restore their sons to them.

"Such is my appeal to you.

(Signed) "Paraskeva Dimitrova."

Talladega, Ala., Home
June 1, 1934

The very fact that Judge James E. Horton did what he believed was right and granted a new trial in one of the "Scottsboro cases" should commend him as the character of man desired on the bench, but his act has stirred up some stiff opposition in the Eighth Alabama Judicial Circuit, which has caused approximately 250 residents of Athens and Limestone county to sign an endorsement of his candidacy. Previously he had been endorsed by every attorney, minister and courthouse official in Athens.

ON ARRESTING A PROFESSIONAL JACKASS

News Age Herald
7-5-34
Birmingham Ala.

John Howard Lawson . . . is no ordinary jackass. Mr. Lawson is a professional jackass. He makes it pay.

Mr. Lawson has been arrested in Birmingham. And we are sorry. We are sorry, first of all, because the Birmingham police are making Alabama the laughing stock of the nation. And we are sorry, too, because we do not believe that Mr. Lawson's offense is criminal under the constitution, and we believe his arrest, besides being indiscreet, is illegal.

Mr. Lawson, be it remembered, came to Alabama with a little notebook, a lead pencil and a dramatist's imagination. He went back to his Harlem-inspired attic in New York and wrote . . . what he wished a New York audience to believe was the truth about the Scottsboro trials. . . .

But let us forget Alabama and Scottsboro for a moment and look into Mr. Lawson's character.

Lawson is a clean-cut case for the psychoanalytical clinic. He has an overdose of martyritis. His philosophy seems to be, "I don't care what you say about me just so it's abusive." The man thrives on abuse. It feeds his complex as well as his stomach. In that respect he is a professional martyr who enjoys his business.

What the Birmingham police officers who arrested Lawson perhaps do not know is that only last week he published a book in which he tore into the literary dramatic critics with zeal of which only one who loves return abuse is capable.

Mr. Lawson knew that he could not get himself cussed quicker than by assaulting contemporary literary and dramatic critics—gentlemen who can dish it out but who cannot take it.

It was but a trick of the professional jackass.

And so is the successful police and court baiting in Birmingham one of his tricks. The fellow, now out on bail, doubtless is having the laugh of his life at the expense of the dignity of the state of Alabama.

As we gather it, Mr. Lawson was arrested not for anything he DID in Birmingham—but for something he said or wrote.

We do not believe in jailing men for what they say or write about a community—or about a court. After all, one should use common sense in punishing persons "guilty" of contempt of the courts.

The arrest of Lawson, we know, pleased the people of Birmingham, and in fact the whole state. Alabama does not like Lawson. It does not like what he says and what he writes.

Still, when the Police Department—though it must have suffered much under the insulting goadings from the professional jackass—puts the largest city in Alabama in the position of a municipality which jails men the natives do not like, we are inclined to view any attempt at promoting understanding between the sections as futile.

Horseflies are more annoying than dangerous.

So are professional jackasses.—Montgomery Advertiser.

Alabama

4660

Lynchings - 1934
Legal Punishment for Rape.

New York Times

MAR 18 1934

CRITICISM FORWARDED BY TWO ALABAMIANS

Mr. Daniell's Review of "They Shall Not Die" Elicits Protests From That State

To the Editor of The New York Times:

I have just finished reading F. Raymond Daniell's review of the current play, "They Shall Not Die" in THE TIMES of March 4, and am astonished that he found the play strikingly similar to the actual Scottsboro case. It seems to me that he has deliberately distorted the facts in order to satisfy readers of THE TIMES, realizing that a majority of them want to believe the play an honest replica of the trials.

No wonder his New York friends expressed surprise when he did not agree that the play is "a libelous travesty on truth." I have not seen the play, nor have I read it, but judging from Mr. Daniell's review, and the reviews of others, I know that he is wrong and his friends are right. I, too, read Mr. Daniell's stories about the Scottsboro case and appreciated the fact that in the main he endeavored to report the case fairly, even though he often allowed personal prejudices to flavor his accounts to a marked degree.

His description of the Decatur court room is not accurate, and neither is the court-room scene of the play as pictured in THE TIMES. He insinuates that the court house is little more than a country hovel deep in the backwoods. Surely he must remember that it is a new building and very modern, if not equal to City Hall in New York.

A Question of Observation.

He writes that "the one touch of realism lacking was the rich bouquet of perspiration and the acrid effluvia of stale tobacco juice which the very walls and benches gave forth in the redolent court room at Decatur." It is all right for a reporter to observe closely, but he shouldn't use his imagination too freely if he isn't sure of the facts. I didn't see tobacco juice on the walls and chairs; there were no cuspidors in the court room and no benches. What he describes as "benches" are really chair-seats, quite new, and such as may be found in any theatre.

Among the spectators there were men dressed in overalls, rawhide boots, and unshaved, as he describes, but he forgot to mention that there were also many others in the court room dressed as well as he was. And of course he wouldn't remember that Negroes always composed fully one-third of the audience.

I am sorry that Alabama was "hostile" to him. Indeed, he must have been in grave danger during his stay and he was a brave man to venture below the M. and D. line in such trying times! He is surely capable of writing about Southern prejudices because he is afflicted with a bad case himself.

I was in the court room when Ruby Bates made her unexpected appearance, but, strange to say, I didn't see the dramatic meeting between her and Victoria Price which Mr. Daniell so vividly describes in his review of the play. Victoria Price had returned to the witness room when Ruby Bates entered the court room, as is customary in court procedure. But no, Mr. Daniell and playwright Wexley wouldn't have it that way. It would not be dramatic!

Too Much Furor.

Much has been written and said about the infamous Scottsboro case; too much, many persons here in the South are inclined to believe. The world-wide attention, parades and speeches of agitators, the circulating propaganda, the hue and cry in general, all strike the average Southerner as making a very unnecessary mountain out of the proverbial ant hill.

The average Southerner—and by "average" I mean neither the hillbilly mountaineer nor the fictional planter aristocrat, but that individual of the common people, of the middle class that predominates any section of the United States—believes that the nine Negro youths accused are guilty, but that they should not be given the extreme penalty of death. The Birmingham Age-Herald and The News have advised against the death penalty in editorials.

The penalty for rape in Alabama is from ten years in prison to death. If found guilty the Negro faces death in most cases. This is the only means of holding the Negro in check, of protecting the white woman from the blackamoor who so easily yields to animal-like passion. That is why there are so few instances, comparatively speaking, of a Negro attacking a white woman. Judge Horton told the Decatur jury that during all his years on the bench he had presided over but three Negro rape cases and that in those cases only one defendant was found guilty.

The average Southerner realizes that the two women, Victoria Price and Ruby Bates, are of questionable character, and, being as humane as the next person, he does not desire to see nine Negroes in the electric chair for their crimes. The average Southerner is not bloodthirsty.

I was at the Decatur trial and, believing with the average Southerner that the initial trial at Scottsboro had been too hasty, I was pleased to note that Judge Horton was endeavoring to conduct the trial fairly. No fault could be found with the manner in which that admirable jurist presided, much to the surprise of the defense counsel, the International Labor Defense and the Communists. Thus one of their chief means of criticism was throttled.

The average Southerner regrets the sore spots that have come up because of the Scottsboro case. He is sorry that Alabama and the South have been placed in a bad light, through little fault of their own, however. But the most lamentable part of it all is that he is driven to conclude that he can expect but little help from outsiders so long as they insist upon dealing with him and his individual problem—the Negro problem—with their ancient Uncle Tom's Cabin doctrines. ORVILLE B. FANNING.

Huntsville, Ala., March 12, 1934.

Alabama Court in Forty-fifth Street," by F. Raymond Daniell.

Mr. Daniell came to Alabama thoroughly sold on the idea that the Scottsboro Negroes were innocent. This he wished to believe, no matter what facts were adduced in the trial; no matter what three juries had declared they were guilty, they were innocent, nevertheless, and every one in Alabama was and is out of step with this city slicker.

Personally I have no interest in these cases, nor in their final determination, but am content to abide by the findings of the juries and the courts of my State. I do, however, resent the plane to which a writer for so great a newspaper as THE NEW YORK TIMES has descended. The reference to the backwoods of Alabama was purely prejudicial. His mentioning of a "hostile attitude" toward him was purely imaginary. His allusions to cuspidors and tobacco spitting jurors were low, prejudicial and contemptible. And, finally, has reference to the woman Ruby Bates as being probably the best dressed woman in Decatur (women of that type usually are well dressed) was highly illuminative. WILLIAM T. SEIBELS.

Montgomery, Ala., March 12, 1934.

Starve, Torture Six Scottsboro Boys in Ala. Jail

Daily Worker

Tormented Lads Told They Must Accept the NAACP "Defense"

4-9-34

NEW YORK.—Torture of the Scottsboro boys in Jefferson County jail, Birmingham, Ala., is continuing in a dastardly attempt to force them to dispense with the services of the International Labor Defense, organizer and leader of the worldwide mass fight which alone has saved the boys from the electric chair so far, it was revealed yesterday by Samuel S. Leibowitz who, with Joseph Brodsky, conducted the defense in the second trial of Haywood Patterson.

New York,

Leibowitz's revelations are based on authentic information received from Benjamin J. Davis Jr., one of the two Atlanta Negro I.L.D. attorneys in the case of Angelo Herndon. Mr. Davis letter substantiates a letter by Olin Montgomery to Joseph Brodsky that he was being starved and tortured. Mr. Davis declares that six of the boys are still held in solitary confinement, and are being tortured by the warden who daily brandishes a pistol before them, threatening them with dire consequences if they should not dispense with the I.L.D. and accept counsel offered by the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People.

The endorsement by the Alabama lynchers of the leadership of the N.A.A.C.P. further emphasizes what increasing sections of Negro and white workers are learning: that the N.A.A.C.P leaders are agents of the white ruling class lynchers against the rising liberation struggles of the Negro masses and the mass fight for the Scottsboro boys.

Daily Worker

Boys Subjected to Long Torture

4-9-34

While at Kilby Prison, Montgomery, Ala., the nine boys were forced to witness the legal lynchings of other innocent Negro workers and told "It will be your turn next." Through this and other forms of torture, Walter White, general secretary of the N.A.A.C.P. once induced several of the boys to sign papers turning their case over to the N.A.A.C.P. These papers were repudiated by the boys when their parents learned of White's visit to the jail. All of the families of the boys scathingly condemned the N.A.A.C.P. misleaders for their persistent attempts to disrupt the mass defense and betray the boys.

New York,

D.W.

This brutal torture of the boys in a new attempt to break their militant spirits and force them to place themselves at the mercy of the Judas white and Negro leaders of the N.A.A.C.P. must arouse the furious indignation of every worker and honest sympathizer with the fight against the lynchers. All organizations are urged to rush protest telegrams to Warden F. L. Erwin, Jefferson County jail, Birmingham, Ala., Gov. W. L. Miller, Montgomery, Ala., and President Roosevelt, demanding a halt to the torture of the Scottsboro boys, and the immediate, unconditional and safe release of the boys, whose innocence of the trumped-up "rape" charge has been admitted even by the lynch jurist. Judge Horton

The Treatment Accorded The Scottsboro Negroes

News

4-14-34

Birmingham Ala.

At the request of Sheriff Hawkins, the Jefferson County Grand Jury has made an investigation into the treatment accorded the Scottsboro Negroes in the County Jail. The sheriff's request was prompted by the accusation made by Samuel S. Leibowitz, the New York attorney for the Negroes, that they were being mistreated.

The Grand Jury finds that the Scottsboro Negroes receive the same food and are "accorded better treatment than other prisoners in the jail because of the widespread publicity given these Negroes."

The grand jurors talked with each of the prisoners, and they themselves said that their food and treatment were good. Their only complaint was that they were "tired of the food." And, as a matter of course, prison fare does not offer the most varied diet, although, as the Grand Jury reports, the food is "well prepared, good and wholesome."

Far from being mistreated themselves, some of the Scottsboro Negroes have at times done violence to other prisoners in the County Jail. This has necessitated their confinement in a cell block to themselves.

Notwithstanding the fact that they have been unruly and have broken prison discipline more than once, these Negroes have been treated well. By their misconduct in the jail, they have done their own cause no good. Neither has Mr. Leibowitz done their cause—and his—any good by his groundless charges that they have been mistreated. The Scottsboro case, at best, presents a bad situation. It is unfortunate that it should be needlessly made worse by the actions of the prisoners themselves and the accusations of their attorney.

S. S. LEIBOWITZ, ESQ.

Advertiser

4-14-34

Montgomery Ala.

Samuel S. Leibowitz, who came to Alabama to defend nine Negroes charged with rape and who tried to convict a jury of "frog-eyed, tobacco-chewing hill billies," and the people of a whole State, is up to his old-time playfulness again.

Leibowitz makes The New York Times headlines by charging that Negroes in the Jefferson County Jail are being tortured. Leibowitz has ordered Sheriff James Hawkins to give an explanation at once to the guardian of Alabama—Mr. Samuel S. Leibowitz.

If Sheriff Hawkins does not immediately explain to Mr. Leibowitz just how he is running the Jefferson County Jail the New York lawyer will order Governor Miller to do something about it.

Sheriff Hawkins perhaps will reassure Leibowitz that prisoners are not tortured in the Jefferson County Jail. But few Alabamians will blame him if he ignores the rude note from Leibowitz. After all the Sheriff is responsible only to the people of Alabama and their appointed executive—not to a New York lawyer who would like to discredit the State in the eyes of the world.

Nevertheless the people of New York who read the Leibowitz charges should be told that Sheriff Hawkins is one of the most conscientious law enforcement officers in Alabama—that only a few weeks ago he jeopardized his political life by pleading for a Negro who he believed to be innocent.

Sheriff Hawkins plead for the life of Willie Peterson, a Negro charged with the murder of two prominent Birmingham girls. Many persons in Jefferson County believed the Negro was guilty—as indeed did a jury.

His testimony and earnest doubt as to the Negro's guilt was instrumental in having Governor Miller commute the Negro's sentence to life.

'GOOD' TREATMENT GIVEN SCOTTSBORO NEGROES, REPORT

News

4-13-34

Birmingham Ala.

Grand Jurors Visit Group In Jail Upon Request Of Sheriff Hawkins

The seven Scottsboro Negroes confined in County Jail here are given the "same food and accorded better treatment than other prisoners in the jail because of widespread publicity given these Negroes," the Grand Jury reported to Judge McElroy in Criminal Court Thursday.

The special report was made after the jurors had visited the Scottsboro Negroes in their cells and inspected their food and quarters, at the request of Sheriff Hawkins. The inquisitors also pointed out that the special visit to the jail was made because of wide publicity given the Negroes and their treatment in the prison.

The special report, which was signed by Henry H. Cobb, foreman, stated that the jurors had talked to each of the prisoners and had been told by the Negroes that their food and treatment was "good" and that the only complaint made by the Negroes was that they were "tired of the food." The report also stated the Negroes, who are confined in a cell block to themselves, wanted to be moved to the part of the jail in which other Negro prisoners are kept.

Wardens in the jail placed the Scottsboro Negroes to themselves after they had created a series of disturbances and assaulted several other Negro prisoners while they were permitted to remain in the same section with the other Negroes.

"We find that four of the Scottsboro Negroes were segregated to themselves on account of numerous fights and disturbances they caused," the report stated. "The quarters they are housed in are the same as any other part of the jail and we could find no evidence of any discrimination against the Negroes.

"We visited the kitchen while dinner was being prepared and found cooks preparing all plates alike, not knowing to whom these plates will be served. We found the food well prepared, good and wholesome."

Before reporting, the jurors questioned B. P. Singleton, assistant state examiner, who is making an audit of Criminal Court Clerk Brandon's office, to determine when his audit would be completed and published. Singleton was summoned before the body in connection with charges that a shortage exists in accounts of the office.

The body returned 73 true bills and 20 no bills and adjourned until May 7.

Grand Jury Finds Negro Prisoners Being Well Fed

Advertiser

4-13-34

Montgomery Ala.

BIRMINGHAM, ALA. April 12.—(AP)—The seven negro defendants in the "Scottsboro case" are being given the same food as other prisoners and are being "accorded better treatment at the jail because of widespread publicity given these negroes," a Jefferson County Grand Jury reported today.

The jurors also reported that the negroes had been questioned and that each of them said food served them was good and that their treatment by jail officials was "satisfactory."

The investigation was made at the instance of Sheriff James F. Hawkins, following a charge in a letter from Samuel Leibowitz, of New York, chief of counsel for the negroes that they were being ill-treated and were not getting sufficient food.

The jurors said in their report that the negroes complained that they were "tired of the food" and that they asked to be moved into a cell block with other prisoners.

With reference to segregation of the negroes, the Grand Jury report said:

"We find that four of the Scottsboro negroes were segregated to themselves on account of numerous fights and disturbances they caused. The quarters they are housed in are the same as any other part of the jail and we could find no evidence of any discrimination against the negroes."

SCOTTSBORO NEGROES REPORTED TORTURED

Times

Leibowitz Asks an Inquiry Into Charges Men Are Beaten and Starved in Jail.

4-8-34

New York N.Y.

A charge that the Negro defendants in the Scottsboro case were being starved, beaten and held in solitary confinement in the Jefferson County (Ala.) jail was made yesterday by Samuel S. Leibowitz, their attorney, in a letter to the county sheriff, James F. Hawkins.

In his letter Mr. Leibowitz asked for a "thorough and impartial" investigation. In support of his charge he made public two letters, one from a Negro attorney of Atlanta, Ga., who said he had visited the defendants, and one from Olen Montgomery, one of the men held in the jail.

The lawyer, Benjamin J. Davis Jr., whose letter was addressed to Joseph R. Brodsky, an associate attorney in the case, declared that the Negroes are in a "critical" situation. "Tortures against the boys are increasing every day," he added, "and it is my opinion that they cannot stand this punishment any longer. Either they will crack or they will be murdered, or tortured to death."

Mr. Leibowitz said that if he did not receive a "favorable" reply within a few days he would appeal to Governor Miller of Alabama.

"SCOTTSBORO" APPEAL TAKEN TO WHITE HOUSE

Constitution

5-14-34

Atlanta Ga.

WASHINGTON, May 13.—(AP)—Thirty whites and negroes, including five mothers of the Scottsboro (Ala.) negro youths held for an attack on two white women, visited the White House today to file a plea in behalf of the negroes with President Roosevelt.

The delegation, however, found that Mr. Roosevelt was absent on a week-end cruise on the Potomac. They then announced they would return tomorrow morning. Included in the group was one of the women alleged to have been attacked by the negroes, Ruby Bates.

Sheriff Objects As Negroes, Whites Dance At I. L. D. Scottsboro Benefit

Advertiser

5-18-34

Montgomery Ala.

HALLS HILLS, VA., May 17.—(AP)—Negroes and whites dancing together in the Odd Fellows Hall here last night were scattered by the threat of Sheriff Howard B. Fields, that he would gas the place.

Eight Arlington County policemen accompanied Sheriff Fields to the hall and stopped the dance after it had been in progress more than an hour.

Sheriff Fields today said he had not ordered the group to leave the county.

"I just broke it up," he said. "I told them they couldn't have a dance without a permit and that negroes and whites couldn't dance together. If they did, I said I'd gas 'em."

Most of the cars in which the crowd left bore Washington licenses, but a few had Maryland tags, he said.

The dance was described as an effort to raise funds for the defense of the Scottsboro, Ala., negro youths who are under sentence of death for attacking two white girls. It was said to have been planned as a preliminary to a mass meeting at which representatives of the International Labor Defense were to speak.

Asked if the group went ahead with a mass meeting after the dance was stopped, Sheriff Field replied:

"They didn't stop for anything. They were busy getting away from there."

Deputy Sheriff H. L. Woodyard said that about 20 white persons and 75 negroes, most of them from Washington, attended the affair. They accepted the Sheriff's order without much protest, got into automobiles and departed, Woodyard related.

The deputy said he believed no residents of Arlington County were in the crowd.

"People of the community objected very strenuously," he explained, "so Sheriff Fields went over and closed them up about 10:30 o'clock. They hadn't been disorderly, that I heard of, and they made no resistance."

Arlington County is just across the Potomac River from Washington.

Lynchings-1934
Legal Punishment for Rape

Alabama

4661

You Don't Have to Go to Decatur to Witness The Scottsboro Trial: It Is Held Here Nightly

"They Shall Not Die" Praised by Writer Who Covered Case

Amsterdam News

T. R. Poston was The Amsterdam News representative at the third trial of Haywood Patterson at Decatur three months ago. In the following article the writer compares the characters and court scenes of the Theatre Guild's new play by John Wexley, "They Shall Not Die," with the prototypes from which they were drawn.—Editor.

3-2-34

New York, N.Y.

By T. R. POSTON.

WITHOUT ENDANGERING one hair on your head, without involuntarily cringing before the baleful stares of hundreds of bloodthirsty whites, without biting your tongue to keep from crying aloud at horrible injustice you are witnessing, it is now possible for you to attend the trial of Haywood Patterson and the other Scottsboro boys.

Patterson is being framed and tried nightly at the Royale Theatre on Forty-fifth street, where the Theatre Guild is presenting John Wexley's new play, "They Shall Not Die." For obvious reasons, the guild will not tell you that you are witnessing the story of the Scottsboro cases. The names of the characters have been changed—slightly. The scenes of the action have been shifted—a few miles. And a program note tells you that the play is the outgrowth of Mr. Wexley's "own observation of the South, brought to focus by recent events there."

But you, or any other reader of the newspapers of the last three years, will not be misled. You will know that Haywood Parsons is Haywood Patterson, that Cookesville is Scottsboro, that Dexter is Decatur and that every character in "They Shall Not Die" has a prototype in actual life.

And you, and every other witness of the stirring drama on Forty-fifth street, will leave the theatre with the same feeling of choking bitterness and soul-searing horror that the writer carried from the small courtroom in Decatur in December of last year. Except that you know that this thing has actually happened, you will be moved to mutter: "Such things could not be. Human beings could not do this thing. This is the twentieth century. We are civilized..."

For the horror of John Wexley's drama is almost unbearable at times. As unbearable as is the infamous Scottsboro case itself. The courtroom scene, which the writer was assigned to compare with the actual happenings at Patterson's third trial in Decatur, is dwarfed by the brutality of the first scenes in which you witness the deliberate but hysterical framing of these innocent youths whose only crime was color and existence in a system which ruthlessly destroys its weaker members—be they black or white.

• • •

AFTER THAT FIRST ACT, laid in the jail in Cookesville—let us do away with these useless stage names—after that first act, laid in the jail at Scottsboro, the director mercifully grants the audience a ten-minute intermission. But ten minutes are hardly enough. When the distressed spectator finally returns to his seat, he finds that he has not recovered—may never fully recover—from what he witnessed in that first scene of "They Shall Not Die."

Anything which happens later is necessarily an anticlimax. And no play, less true, less forceful, less significant than John Wexley's drama could have survived that opening scene. But this does survive, primarily because it is not a play. It is a picture of life, of our times—stark, brutal, savage, but a true picture, not of what can happen, but of what has actually occurred.

But this is not a review. It is to be a comparison of the trial scenes of the Theatre Guild's play with the actual trial scene at the last Decatur arraignment, and a comparison of Mr. Wexley's characters with their prototypes encountered by the writer in his capacity as a reporter. The first part of the assignment is almost impossible, for the court scenes of

Court Reporter Finds Play Follows Facts in Great Detail

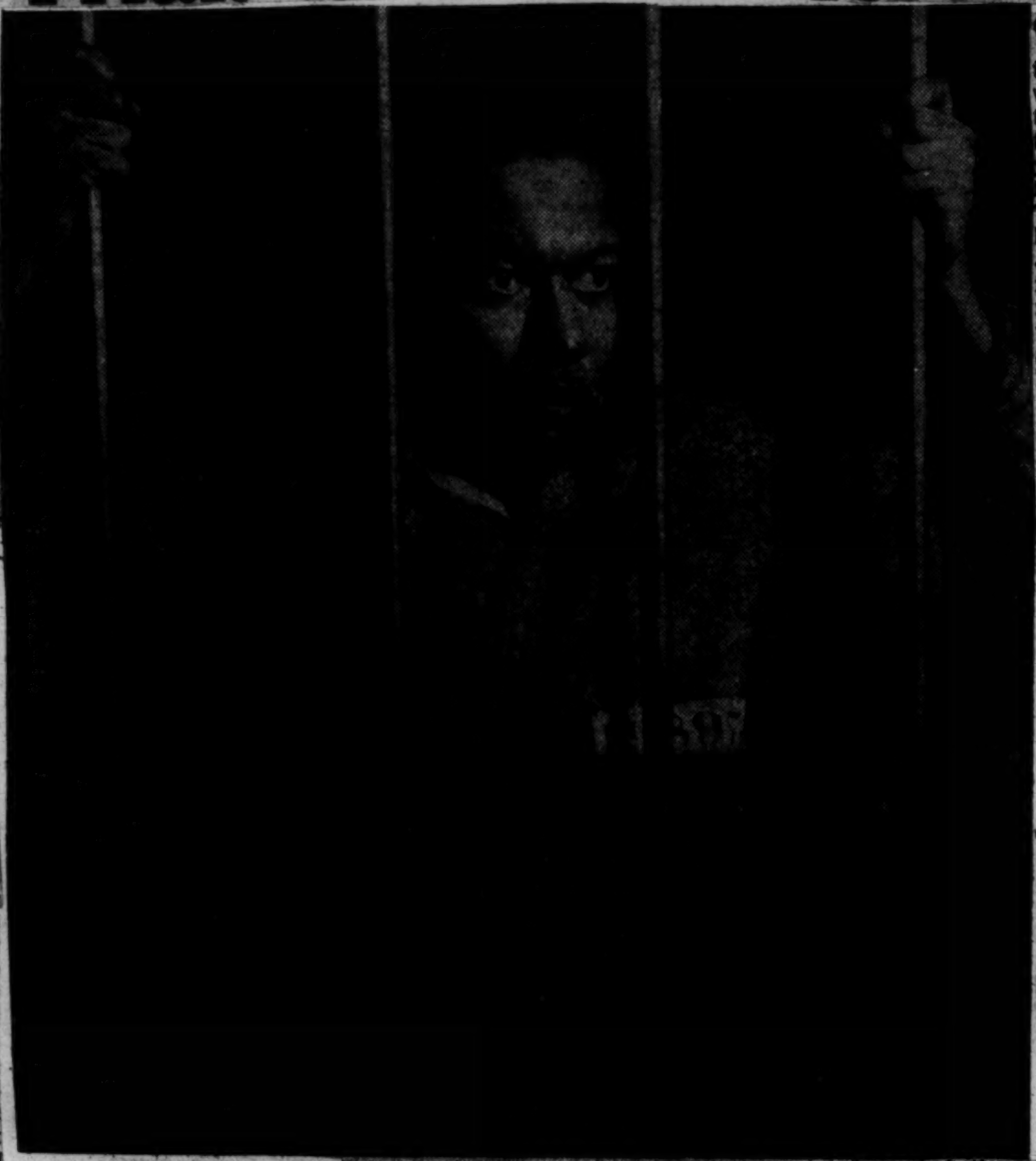
"They Shall Not Die" are taken almost wholly from the Decatur hearing held before Judge James E. Horton and not the latter one held before Judge William Washington Callahan and attended by this correspondent.

• • •

IT IS EASIER TO compare the characters. Not that it adds or detracts from the forcefulness of the play, the Haywood Patterson of the Wexley play is not the Haywood Patterson the writer met in the dingy bull-pen of the rickety Decatur jailhouse and watched in the Morgan County Circuit courthouse. The fearless, embattled, extremely intelligent youth of the stage is a character created almost entirely by the author. Patterson was intelligent, he possessed a certain boyish defiance, he resented his position, but he was very little like the character admirably portrayed by Al Stokes at the local theatre..

Neither was the Leibowitz of the Royale the Leibowitz of Decatur. But this was not Wexley's fault. Although Claude Rains skillfully imitated the defense counsel's voice, and in most cases delivered the latter's exact words taken from the court records, the actor at no time really imparted the vibrant personality of Samuel S. Leibowitz. And the Lord's Prayer summation, which is still discussed reverently by every Decatur Negro who heard it, is just another theatrical speech in the mouth of a self-conscious Thespian.

The Victoria Price of Linda Watkins falls somewhere in the same category. In the frisky, very affected prosecutrix of the stage, one misses much of the physically repulsive, vindictive and guilt-revealing witness, who could hardly await the proper question before pointing to "that defenunt thar" in Judge Callahan's court.



Al Stokes as Haywood Patterson.

ON THE OTHER HAND, the Scottsboro boys, with the exception of Haywood Patterson, were so very much the Scottsboro boys that the writer found it almost impossible to distinguish between the excellent young actors and the real characters in that sordid drama of the South. Their performance was excelled only by the Joseph R. Brodsky of Louis John Latzer. Latzer, in appearance in speech, in the most insignificant mannerism was ever Brodsky, the International Labor Defense attorney. So was Ruth Gordon ever Ruby Bates, the Huntsville mill girl.

The Walter White, conceived by Mr. Wexley and executed by Brandon Peters, is devastating. The Negro minister of Fred Miller drew long and deserved applause. The Judge Horton of Thurston Hall, the Wade Wright of Carl Eckstrom and the Attorney General Knight of Ben Smith bear unmistakable resemblance to their inspirations. The William L. Patterson of Frank Wilson, probably because of its brevity, is slightly inadequate. But the performances of the entire cast, in mob, group and individual scenes, are never short of stirring.

In the writer's opinion, the final scene of the drama might have been greatly strengthened had it covered the Callahan trial instead of the Horton arraignment. The hysteria of the trial presented cannot hope to match the hysteria of the first act, but had the latter arraignment been utilized the cold-blooded deliberation of the whole farce might have plumbed a new depth of horror through its inevitable comparison.

• • •

THERE WILL BE a fourth Scottsboro trial. It will probably be held in Decatur next fall. But if you don't care to wait that long or, to un the personal risk of attending it, you may witness the whole arraignment, and more, at the Royale Theatre any evening.

ROCHESTER, N. Y.
DEMOCRAT & CHRONICLE
FEB 23 1934

Says Scottsboro Boys Should Have Fair Trial

Editor Democrat and Chronicle:

The Scottsboro side-show has effectively been missing from the press sheet these recent days. Isn't it about time the audience opened their eyes at least, if they could not find sufficient strength or courage for applause?

To one less versed in the intricacies of the racial problem, the South is another land blooming roses instead of wilcs, flowing milk and honey instead of theoretical manipulations, yet the Southern taxpayer has always managed to get a good front seat for his money and the "minstrel" show goes on.

Recently I was speaking with a Southerner. The Negro question being brought up, he "hurricaned" me most vociferously and declamatorily with the ignorance of the yankee in regard to problems that are strictly sectional. "Why," he said, "don't the Northerners mind their own business? We are perfectly capable of handling the situation in our own way." And right then and there he began pointing out the "gangstermania" of New York, Philly and Chicago, (of course forgetting such cities as St. Louis, Kansas City and Baltimore), and demanded to know why "Northern housecleaning" wasn't taken care of by "Northerners" before the Yankee sent "shyster" lawyers to proclaim the ruminations of another sector.

He didn't forget to paint grotesque pictures of the slave wage being paid to miners, mill-hands, and operators in Pennsylvania, Connecticut and New Jersey, (BNAR—Before NRA), for getting the ridiculous wage scale unscrupulously meted the cotton-picker and other Negro labor down South (ANRA—After NRA), besides having the audacity to say that, since the Negro could live on a much smaller scale, why complain. The old "ignorance is bliss" theory applied to the stomach.

When Al Smith was slated for the presidency on the Democratic ticket, a fiery Southern Democrat, ex-Senator Heflin of Alabama, branding the Empire State shareholder with having been brought up on the East Side, (he should have branded the parents for that) and coming in contact with the "darker" side of life, and thus being the life-long friend of the colored man, preached the "gospel" of "unfitness for office," "foe of the South," and "detrimental to the best interests of the union," forgetting that his (the ex-Senator's) faith, the gospel of Jesus, drew no line between color, height, politics and pedigree, and that the only line drawn was an imaginary one by Mason and Dixon, above which the Northerner read the "minstrels" in the press sheet and below which the Southerner actually witnessed them.

Isn't it high time that the victims of the Scottsboro Case be given a fair trial, with a fair jury, judge and audience, instead of being used as basketballs to be tossed unceremoniously around for the one purpose of provoking future alibis for the persecution of future victims?

JONAS CLIFTON.

Rochester, N. Y.

New York Times

FEB 25 1934

LIMITATION VOIDS SCOTTSBORO PLEAS

Judge Rejects Motions for New Trials as Not Filed Within Prescribed Time.

STATE HIGH COURT INVOKED

Defense Prepares to File at Once Briefs Charging Prejudice Against Two Negroes.

Special to THE NEW YORK TIMES.

DECATUR, Ala., Feb. 24.—Because the motions for new trials for Heywood Patterson and Clarence Norris in the Scottsboro case were not filed within the statutory time limit, they were overruled here today by Circuit Judge W. W. Callahan.

The law specifies that such motions must be filed within thirty days after judgment except when the regular term of court ends within the period, in which case they must be filed before the last day of the teerm. The latter provision was the basis of today's ruling.

At the term of court ending Dec. 23, 1933, the two Negroes were tried here on change of venue and convicted of participating with seven others in attacking Mrs. Victoria Price and Ruby Bates on a freight train in Jackson County in April, 1931. They were sentenced to death.

The record showed that the new trial motion for Patterson was filed on Dec. 29, six days after the term closed, and that for Norris on Jan. 9. Both were rejected on motion of Attorney General Thomas Knight Jr., who cited the statutory limitation.

Osmond K. Frankel of New York, and George W. Chamlee of Chattanooga, of counsel for the defense, said tonight that they would at once file a bill of exceptions with an appeal to the State Supreme Court, which will review the cases for the second time.

On the first occasion the tribunal upheld death sentences for seven Negroes convicted at the trial in Scottsboro, but the sentences were set aside by the United States Supreme Court. Two of the nine Negroes originally accused have been turned over to the Juvenile Court.

Since the trial in Scottsboro, Patterson has been twice convicted here and Norris once.

Contentions of the Defense.

In the trials ended here in December the defense submitted three briefs. One sought quashing of the indictments and release of the prisoners on the ground that their constitutional rights had been invaded because of the exclusion of Negroes from the grand jury which indicted them and the petit jury which convicted them.

This brief also charged that Judge Callahan had misunderstood the defense contentions regarding alleged forgery of jury rolls and had erred in limiting the proof offered by the defense.

The other two briefs alleged that the conviction of Norris and Patterson was against the weight of evidence and cited a series of "prejudicial errors" attributed to Judge Callahan in the course of the trials.

After accusing the judge of drawing the "color line," in his charge to the jury, "forgetting to instruct the jurors that they could acquit Patterson," and of condoning an "appeal to prejudice" by the Attorney General, the brief reminded Judge Callahan that he might correct his own mistakes by ordering a new trial.

Among the reversible errors cited by the defense were the following: That Judge Callahan prevented the defense from offering evidence in explanation of the condition in which the State's physicians found the girls after the alleged attack; that evidence tending to discredit Victoria Price, the prosecutrix, was excluded, and that the court refused to grant a brief delay for the defense, thus excluding material testimony by a Chattanooga physician and a deposition by Ruby Bates contradicting Mrs. Price.

Leibowitz Pressing Appeal.

Samuel S. Leibowitz, chief of defense counsel in the Scottsboro case, said here yesterday that nothing had been "lost," by Judge Callahan's dismissal of the motion for new trials for Heywood Patterson and Clarence Norris.

"Judge Callahan's action makes no material difference in the status of the case," he said. "Our appeal to the higher courts is not affected."

The International Labor Defense, which retained Mr. Leibowitz in behalf of the Negroes, however, charged that Judge Callahan had "deliberately misled" defense attorneys regarding the date for filing their motion.

BOSTON, MASS.
HERALD
FEB 28 1934

STEIN TO SCOTTSBORO

The New York stage last week brought forth two spectacles, so unlike in their content and purpose as to have nothing in common except their probable failure to delight the masses. The first is "Four Saints in Three Acts," an opera for which the enigmatical Gertrude Stein wrote the libretto and Virgil Thomson, recently one of Dr. Davison's aides at Harvard, composed the score. Now, after the pioneer premiere at Hartford earlier in the month and the festive first-night in New York, nobody seems to know just what it is all about. But its Negro cast, the cellophane scenery, and Mr. Thomson's volatile music tickled "the stream-lined intelligentsia" pink. Indeed, who (in America at least) ever went to an opera expecting to understand the words? In the end Lawrence Gilman cheerfully admitted that "Gertrude Saint Gertrude in three or four or forty acts is good clean fun clean fun clean fun—which is a fact."

The second production, John Wexley's "They Shall Not Die," is, if anything, too understandable. It is a stark dramatization of the case of "the Scottsboro boys." The author of "The Last Mile" has told the story in such a clinical fashion that some of the more sensitive members of the Theatre Guild audience left before the final curtain.

The play avoids no tender issue. It discusses the racial question as it affects both Negroes and Jews. It is frank propaganda, and as such it probably errs here and there factually, for not all Negroes are white saints and not all southern whites are black devils.

Because, we are told, people go to the theatre to be amused, not to be lectured to, the play is probably doomed to financial failure. Always remember, of course, that the most famous of American plays, "Uncle Tom's Cabin," contained more than a little propaganda.

Bronx Protest on Scottsboro Torture Friday

Daily Worker

4-19-34

New York N.Y.

Boys Reveal Threats of Murder for Rejecting NAACP "Defense"

BIRMINGHAM, Ala., April 18.—Constant threats of murder in their prison cells are held over the Scottsboro boys in Jefferson County jail here, it was revealed today as more details of their torture by jail wardens were uncovered by the International Labor Defense investigation.

"As long as that nigger lawyer (Ben Davis—Ed.) keeps coming down here swelling your heads you're going to stay in solitary," he threatened them.

On another occasion Warden Rogers brandished his pistol at one of the boys, threatening to kill him.

"I ought to kill you now," he said. "They're going to kill you anyway, just like they're going to burn Patterson and Norris."

Stool-pigeons, openly referred to as such in the jail, are placed in the boys' cells to provoke them into fights. It was on the basis of such a provocation that the boys were recently thrown into solitary confinement.

"I'll always believe my stool-pigeons in preference to you niggers," Rogers has boasted.

Recently, when Myra Page, well-known writer, visited the boys, Warden Rogers yelled at them that "as long as white whores come down here to see you, we're not going to let you out."

These tortures, it has been made clear by the statements of Warden Rogers himself, are inspired by a pact between the Alabama lynchers and the leaders of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People, of whom William Pickens, a national officer, was a recent visitor to the warden.

Warden Rogers has frequently told the boys that if only they will throw over working-class defense and accept a lynch lawyer of the N. A. A. C. P. he will "treat them nice."

Protests against this torture of the Scottsboro boys, who have courageously resisted every provocation, should be sent to Governor B. M. Miller, and the state supreme court, with the demand for their immediate release, and the freedom of Heywood Patterson and Clarence Norris, whose cases are now being appealed before that court; and to Warden E. L. Erwin and Prison Commissioner Fagin, at Birmingham, Ala.

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Bronx Workers to Thunder Protest

NEW YORK.—Bronx workers will pour into the streets tomorrow night in an indignant protest against the fiendish torture of the Scottsboro boys by Jefferson County prison (Birmingham, Ala.) wardens, and to demand the freedom of the nine boys whose innocence has been proved before the whole world.

The workers will gather at 161st St. and Prospect Ave. at 7 o'clock parading from that point to the Nat Turner Hall, Third Ave. and 170th St., where an indoor protest meeting will be held. The parade will be fed by eight other open-air meetings.

At the hall the workers will hear Joseph Brodsky, chief of the legal staff of the International Labor Defense, and Richard B. Moore, general secretary of the League of Struggle for Negro Rights, report on the latest developments in the case.

Lynchings - 1934

Legal Punishment for Rape

Alabama

4662

James Cagney, Film Star, to Sell for Scottsboro

3-3-34

SAN FRANCISCO. — (ANP)--James Cagney, Hollywood film star, has consented to officiate at the Scottsboro Defense Fund Exhibit and Sale of original manuscripts, scores, and paintings to be held at the Western Women's club in San Francisco from February 26th to the 28th, providing studio arrangements permit. At a preview of the material to be sold, held at the home of Noel Sullivan, millionaire singer, philanthropist and clubman, on Wednesday the 20th Sara Bard Field, noted Western poet, Mrs. Sidney [illegible], Mrs. Alexander Meikeljohn, wife of the famous educator, and prominent society ladies acted as hostesses and presided over tea.

Among the rare and valuable manuscripts to be sold as a page from the original of Anita Loos' "Gentlement Prefer Blondes," the entire manuscript of Gertrude Athernon's "Black Oxen," a portion of an unfinished poem by Robinson Jeffers, whom many critics claim is America's greatest poet, and and first drafts in their own hand from many other famous writers including Julian Huxley, Countee Cullen, John Dos Passos, Ezra Pound, Claude McKay, and Sara Teasdle. There are pictures from Aaron Douglas, Steig, O'Shea Lynn Ward, Julius Block, and others, including photo studies by Weston, Steichen, and Havemeyer. Mr. W. C. Handy, great composer of "The St. Louis Blues" has promised to send the manuscript of his new "Scottsboro Blues." Miss Ethel Waters has contributed nine signed photographs of herself taken by Carl Van Vechten. The souvenir catalogue for the Exhibit is being prepared by Grebhorn, noted art printer of the coast. And a phamplet of the opinions of famous persons on Scottsboro will be issued.

This sale has been arranged by The National Committee for the Defense of Political Prisoners. Northern California branch of which Dorothy Erskine is secretary. The manuscripts were collected largely through the efforts of Ella Winter, Langston Hughes, and other members of the Carmel John Reed club. The National Committee, of which Lincoln Steffens is chairman and Rose McClendon is vice chairman, includes a number of Negroes in its membership: Wm. Monroe Trotter, Countee Cullen, Louise Thompson, Wm. N. Jones and Eugene Gordon among others.

Chattanooga, Tenn News

February 20, 1934

The Race for Money

THE Scottsboro case has been used for money-making purposes by the I. L. D. heretofore. But it was hardly to be expected that the greedy theatrical magnates of New York, who pander to any sort of sensationalism in order to make money, would make a play out of it. Such, however, is the case. "Legal Murder" opened recently, and will close soon, according to the critics. It is founded on the Scottsboro case.

"Every comic supplement Negro trait that was ever devised by men unfamiliar with the Negro of the deep South has been poured into it until those who should be shown as victims of a terror emerge as court fools," says the New York *Journal*.

Another play based on the Scottsboro case will open Wednesday night. It is called "They Shall Not Die." Its author is a capable dramatist, having written "The Last Mile," that grim prison tragedy. But it is obvious that he hopes to profit by the ignorant fanaticism of certain New York groups in this instance.

Justice becomes hamstringed in these days when movies and stage seize upon serious subjects in their mad race for commercial profits.

SCOTTSBORO NEW TRIAL PLEA DENIED

Journal and Guide

3-3-34

Norfolk, Va.

Deliberate Effort To Mislead I. L. D. Laid To Judge

DECATUR, Ala. — (ANP) — Brazenly defiant of public sentiment outside Alabama, Judge W. W. "Speed" Callahan, peremptorily overruled motions for new trials for Heywood Patterson and Clarence Norris on technical grounds last Saturday.

In November, 1933, Patterson, tried for the third time, and Norris, in his second trial, were each sentenced to death for an alleged attack on Victoria Price, white mill worker, and Ruby Bates who denies that the attack ever took place.

Attorney General Knight moved that the defense motions for new trials be stricken because, under Alabama law, they had not been filed in time. According to the Alabama statutes, new trial motions must be filed within thirty days of imposition of sentence or if the regular term of court expires before thirty days, on the final day of the regular term.

The term of the court in which Patterson and Norris were tried ended December 23. Patterson's motion for a new trial was filed December 29, and that of Norris, January 3.

Had "No Jurisdiction"

Callahan held that he, therefore, in the present term of court, held no jurisdiction, and overruled the defense motions presented by Osmod K. Fraenkel of New York.

The defense in its briefs had attacked the Jim-Crow jury system in Alabama; Callahan's prejudicial haste in rushing the trials through; his biased instructions to the jury; his failure to instruct the jury that it might acquit the defendant; his refusal to give the defense the opportunity to present certain evidence; and his baiting of the defense attorneys.

The next move on the part of the defenders of the Scottsboro boys is to make an appeal to the Alabama Supreme Court which once before upheld death sentences for seven of the boys. Only ten days were left Saturday to perfect this appeal inasmuch as only 90 days from sentence is allowed for it.

Appeal Briefs Being Prepared

In New York Samuel Leibowitz, the boys' chief counsel was quoted as saying the briefs for the appeal to the State Supreme Court are now being prepared.

The International Labor Defense declared after Judge Callahan's ruling Saturday that he had deliberately deceived them as to the date for filing the new trial motion.

Leibowitz contended that new trial motions had been filed immediately after the two boys had been sentenced. He stated that Judge Callahan's ruling Saturday was no material setback as the defense had been prepared to carry the case to the higher courts from the beginning.

In the briefs filed Saturday by the defense, Judge Callahan was urged to seize the opportunity to correct the mistakes he made in the trial.

Callahan Denies Scottsboro Move

Advertiser

3-10-34

Montgomery, Ala.

DECATUR, ALA., March 9.—(AP)—A new effort for a retrial of Heywood Patterson and Clarence Norris, two of nine negroes under death sentence in the "Scottsboro case" was denied by Judge W. W. Callahan in Morgan Circuit Court today.

"The motion is entirely without merit," said Judge Callahan. "Even if I had been so despicable as to try to trick the defense by deceiving them, I still cannot change the law."

Judge Callahan also denied the defense was seeking to spread propaganda that the court was dealing unfairly with the defendants.

The ruling today was on a motion for a rehearing on the ruling of Feb. 24, when the judge held the defense had not filed the motions for a new hearing within the time prescribed by law.

The next step in the case is forwarding of the bill of exceptions to the Alabama Supreme Court by Judge Callahan for both Patterson and Norris who were sentenced for the same offense on Dec. 6.

Atty. Gen. Thomas E. Knight, Jr., represented the State and Alex Racolin, of Little Rock, Ark., and Elias Schwarzbard, of New York, represented the defendants at the retrial motion hearing

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Planes Will Fly Scottsboro Brief To Alabama In Time for Appeal

Planet

3-10-34

Richmond, Va.

New York.—Work on the narrative bill of exceptions in the cases of Heywood Patterson and Clarence Norris, Scottsboro boys, was begun at top speed by I. L. D. attorneys Saturday, when word of Callahan's decision to throw out the motion for reversal reached here.

The huge task of reducing the 3,500 pages of testimony in the trial to be a narrative form, and having it filed in Montgomery, Ala., by Saturday, including some material which the clerk of court has so far failed to supply the defense, and which will have to be worked on in Montgomery, will be completed, and the papers flown to Montgomery and filed by Saturday.

At the same time it was revealed that the court stenographer, joining in the plot of Callahan and Knight to rob the Scottsboro boys of their appeal rights, omitted from the transcript of the testimony the conversation between Callahan and attorneys, in which Callahan granted the first 30-day extension which he now claims was illegal. Newspaper reporters, however, were not so careless, and an account of this conversation, as reported by them, appeared in the press of December 2.

THE DRAMATIC CRITIC WHO COVERED SCOTTSBORO

Advertiser

Mr. F. Raymond Daniell, one of the able young men of the great New York Times was sent to Alabama to report the Scottsboro case for his paper.

Mr. Daniell, obviously, is a brilliant writer. His dispatches to The Times proved that even to "the red-necked, tobacco-chewing folks of Alabama," who thought Mr. Daniell was just a bit too enthusiastic in his attempts to furnish local color for New Yorkers who had never been to this savage Southern State.

Somehow, though, despite Mr. Daniell's

recognized ability, Alabamians resented certain passages in his stories.

3-10-34

The Advertiser, which admires talent, was among those who resented the manner in which The Times man reported the trial.

But now The Advertiser knows that Mr. Daniell was not to blame. The trouble is Mr. Daniell is a born dramatic critic. He is a better dramatic critic than he is a reporter. And dramatic critics sometimes are prone to overlook boring fact in their keen search for the dramatic.

Montgomery Adv

The New York paper sent Mr. Daniell over to the Theater Guild the other day to review John Wexler's play "They Shall Not Die," more or less based on the Scottsboro trials.

Mr. Daniell, with eyes sensitive to theatricals, found "to my surprise" that the propaganda play practically "faithfully reproduced" the Decatur rape trials.

Mr. Daniell, in a poetic moment, closed his eyes and imagined that he was back in "none-too-hospitable, almost hostile Alabama." It must have been a rare pleasure for Mr. Daniell to have relived the thrills of being in barbaric Alabama, all the while being comforted by the thought that he was, in fact, safe in that warm-hearted, gracious city of New York, where gunmen and racketeers are mere myths.

If Mr. Daniell ever is sent back to Alabama in the role of a dramatic critic we hope that he will visit in Montgomery where—prohibition being repealed—the New Yorker may sip of mint juleps and be assured that he is always welcome in this State, both as a dramatic critic and as a curiosity.

PLEAS FILED FOR SCOTTSBORO PAIR

Bills Of Exceptions Presented To Judge Callahan In Decatur Court

Advertiser

3-7-34

Montgomery

DECATUR, ALA., March 6.—(AP)—Attorneys for Heywood Patterson and Clarence Norris, two negroes under sentence of death in the Scottsboro case, today had presented to Judge W. W. Callahan bills of exceptions in each case on which an appeal to the Alabama Supreme Court is based.

The voluminous bills of exceptions were presented to Judge Callahan at his home yesterday by Alex E. Racolin, of Little Rock, Ark., and Elias Schwarzbard, of New York, of the counsel staff retained by the International Labor Defense for the negroes.

The two attorneys also filed with Judge Callahan today a motion for a rehearing on his ruling of Feb. 24, when he held he was without jurisdiction to hear motions for a new trial.

The ruling was on a State motion which argued that since the motions for new trials were not filed before midnight of the last day of the regular court term in which the negroes were sentenced, the court no longer held jurisdiction.

Patterson and Norris were convicted by Morgan County juries of attacking Mrs. Victoria Price aboard a Southern Railway freight train in Jackson County on March 25, 1931. They were sentenced on Dec. 6.

Three principal questions were raised in each bill of exceptions along with numerous others in support of the defense argument for a new trial.

The constitutional question was raised by the defense in an allegation that "systematic exclusion of negroes from the jury rolls solely because of their race and color" violated the constitutional rights of the defendants.

The second principal ground was that the court erred in not granting a motion for a change of venue, as the defendants could not obtain a fair trial in Morgan County due "to prejudice and feeling."

The bill of exception also held that Judge Callahan erred in not permitting certain testimony concerning the action and conduct of the prosecutrix immediately prior to the commission of the alleged offense.

The motion for a rehearing on the ruling which struck the motions for a new trial was supported by an affidavit by Joseph R. Brodsky, New York, of defense counsel, setting forth certain allegations.

Brodsky's affidavit said that when the jury returned the verdict in the Patterson case on Dec. 1, Samuel S. Leibowitz, chief of defense counsel, asked that the defendant be sentenced but the court declined saying the court disliked to sentence a man to death the same day the verdict was returned.

Brodsky further set forth that Leibowitz had asked for an extension of time in which to file motions for a new trial and the court had said the defense had 30 days in which to file the motion, and that after it had been filed, a continuance could then be asked."

The affidavit sets forth that the colloquy was not in official transcript, and quotes New York newspapers to substantiate the allegation that it did occur.

Brodsky said defense counsel was familiar with Alabama statutes providing for 30 days in which to file a motion for a new trial, but was not familiar with the statute requiring that it be filed before midnight of the last day of the regular term of court in which the defendant was sentenced.

Patterson, Norris and seven other negroes were indicted in Jackson County on March 31, 1931, charged with attacking Mrs. Price and Ruby Bates aboard the freight train. Eight of the negroes were convicted and sentenced to death, and the ninth, a juvenile gained a mistrial. The Alabama Supreme Court confirmed all except one conviction, but the United States Supreme Court set the verdicts aside on the grounds the negroes were without benefit of adequate counsel.

Patterson was retried and convicted last April, but Judge James E. Horton, presiding, set the verdict aside on the grounds that the evidence was insufficient to warrant the sentence.

RUBY BATES CHEERED BY COLUMBIA STUDENTS

[illegible] 3-10-34

NEW YORK, March 9.—Mixed emotions and various outbursts, ranging from ribald shouts, jeers, cheers and remarks greeted the appearance of Ruby Bates, white girl who reversed her original testimony in favor of the Scottsboro boys when she appeared before an audience of 300 persons at Columbia university on Friday under the auspices of the Social Problems club, a serious-minded student organization.

[illegible]

The meeting was held [illegible] steps of the university library.

Nearby the students in Hamilton hall, one of the college dormitories, caused the slim, olive-skinned witness to flinch slightly when they interrupted her speech.

"We want Ruby!" "Come up and see us sometime, Ruby!" "Whoops, Ruby!"

In the crowd there was a good sprinkling of the more serious-minded students and of professors who packed close to Ruby Bates, and these were perceptibly upset by the rudeness with which some of the students treated the girl. A collection for the benefit of the Scottsboro boys was taken.

Scottsboro Mess

The Plainsman

4-22-34

Auburn, Alabama.

The acquisition of further information on the subject inclines us to believe that our first judgment of the Scottsboro verdict was somewhat hasty. The action of Judge Horton in postponing the trials of the other defendants, the passage of insults by the counsels, the doubtful character of the allegedly assaulted women, all lead one to question the guilt of the Negroes.

Later evidence inclines us to believe that the recent trial of Patterson was held in a background of sectional and racial prejudice. The prejudice of the defense was manifested in its attempt to place the white people of Alabama on trial, an action which could only stir up resentment in the jury.

It is all too evident that the Decatur verdict should be modified or a new trial held. That the Negroes will be given a fair trial is now more doubtful than ever, unless they are brought before the Supreme Court of the United States. The defense has done more to convict the boys by its vituperation of the Decatur jury and the white people in Alabama than the prosecution has done. The propaganda scattered throughout the North by various organizations has done the defendants an injustice that may mean their deaths. We rather believe that the propagandists have never been really interested in the administration of justice; what they want is fertile ground on which to sow their communistic doctrines. And the poor, ignorant blacks are the targets of their preachings.

What the good citizens of Alabama think of the trial is best expressed by John Temple Graves II, of the *Birmingham Age Herald*, who says:

> "Walter Lippman paid this column the compliment last Tuesday of wiring from New York for its opinion of the Scottsboro case and asking 'what, if anything, I could helpfully say?' It seems to us that the most helpful thing Mr. Lippman could say is that enlightened Alabamians—and there are thousands of them—have their fingers crossed, that they want with all their hearts to be fair, that they believe the death penalty a social necessity in the South for the crime of which the Negroes are accused, but that they are by no means certain of guilt in this instance and that even if there is guilt the circumstances seem to call for executive modification of sentence. And that they have no more patience with Solicitor Wright than they have with the International Labor Defense. And that they do not believe in lynching—by hand or by telegram."

We are inclined to concur with Mr. Graves' viewpoint. The whole affair has been badly mismanaged. Propaganda has attracted international attention to the trial, attention that the matter has not deserved. Juries and lawyers both have been swayed by prejudice, resentment to interference, and a host of other influences which should have no bearing whatsoever on the matter in question. Someone knows the whole truth of the matter, but the perjury of one of the witnesses has made the ascertainment of that truth a most difficult task. We can only hope that future procedure will bring out the facts of the case in their true light before any irreparable mistakes are made.

Lynchings-1934.
&
Legal Punishment for Rape.

Alabama.

4663

INDIANAPOLIS, IND.
TIMES

MAR 1 1934

DEMAND RELEASE OF SCOTTSBORO NEGROES

Anti-Lynch Meeting Will Be Held Here Tonight.

Resolutions demanding release of nine Negroes held in the famous Scottsboro case will be acted on at a Scottsboro anti-lynch meeting at 7:45 tonight in Phillips Memorial Temple, West and Drake streets.

The resolutions will be sent to the Governor of Alabama and the trial judge. Another resolution will be sent to President Roosevelt demanding enactment of a federal law making advocacy of lynching, as well as the act of lynching, a federal offense, as the means of halting the lynching of Negroes throughout the nation.

The meeting will be under auspices of the Heywood Patterson branch and Branch 3, International Labor Defense, and the district committee, unemployment council.

Two Of Scottsboro Negroes Appealing

Formal certificates of appeal were filed in the office of the clerk of the Alabama Supreme Court yesterday, in the cases of Heywood Patterson and Clarence Norris, two of the seven negro "Scottsboro" case defendants, convicted of criminally assaulting two young white women aboard a freight train, near Paint Rock, Ala., more than three years ago, and sentenced to death.

All of the negroes were originally convicted and condemned to death following trials held at Scottsboro. The Alabama Supreme Court affirmed the judgments, but on appeal to the U. S. Supreme Court reversals resulted and new trials were ordered. On a change of venue, to Morgan County, Patterson was again placed on trial, convicted and sentenced to death, but on motion of defense counsel the verdict was set aside.

Another trial resulted in the third conviction of Patterson and the imposing of the death penalty. Norris was next tried, with a like result. Trials of the other five negro defendants are pending. Patterson's appeal now before the Supreme Court of the State is therefore, from his third conviction and sentence; that of Norris from his second.

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4 Scottsboro Boys Are Put In "Solitary"

Letters Are Withheld in Effort To Break Their Spirit

Daily Worker

BIRMINGHAM, Ala., March 12.—Four of the Scottsboro boys here have been put in solitary confinement, in an attempt to break their militant spirits, it was revealed today. Meanwhile, Haywood Patterson and Clarence Norris, held in the death cells in Kilby Prison, Montgomery, are deprived of letters sent them by workers throughout the country. 3-13-34

Roy Wright, Eugene Williams and Willie Roberson have been put in solitary because a Negro stool-pigeon picked a fight with Roy Wright, and Roy defended himself. One of the turnkeys has admitted that the whole affair was a frame-up.

New York, N.Y.

Andy Wright has been in solitary confinement for two weeks because he refused to obey an order by Dan Rogers, one of the wardens, to go out into the cld and sleet inadequately dressed. While in solitary, the boys are not permitted to have baths or change of clothing.

Charlie Weems is suffering from severe pains in the chest, and has received no medical attention whatsoever.

Protests against the inhuman treatment of the Scottsboro boys should be sent to Gov. B. M. Miller and Attorney-General Thomas E. Knight at Montgomery, Ala., and to the warden of Jefferson County jail, Birmingham, Ala.

Protests should also be sent to the warden of Kilby Prison against withholding and destruction of letters sent to Patterson and Norris.

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Court Refuses Protest Telegrams

SAN FRANCISCO, March 12.—Telegrams demanding the immediate release of the Scottsboro boys, sent by the International Labor Defense and its bazaar conference to the State supreme court of Alabama, have been refused, the telegraph company notified the I. L. D. today.

Daily Worker

Among prominent individuals who have sent protest telegrams to the court, to President Roosevelt and Gov. Miller, are James Cagney and Mrs. Cagney, Victor Jorg, Mariedel Welch, Dr. Matt Crawford, Dorothy Erskine, Ella Winter, Langston Hughes, Marie Short and Noel Sullivan.

3.13.34

In spite of opposition by the reactionary leadership, the Pacific Coast convention of the International Longshoremen's Association passed a resolution condemning the Scottsboro lynch verdicts.

New York

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N.Y.

NEW YORK. — The Spartacus Greek Workers Club was notified by the Western Union yesterday that Judge W. W. Callahan had refused to accept a protest telegram sent by that organization. The club is mailing the protest, and at the same time wiring similar protests to Gov. B. M. Miller and President Roosevelt, demanding the release of the nine innocent Scottsboro boys.

5,000 Battle Cops at Meet For 9 Boys

Daily Worker

Workers To Pack The Court Today To Defend Four Arrested

3-19-34

NEW YORK. — Indignant workers will pack the East 121st St. court (between Third and Lexington Aves.) this morning at the hearing on four workers arrested Saturday afternoon when police brutally attacked 5,000 Negro and white workers participating in a mass welcome to the Scottsboro Mother, Mrs. Ada Wright, and a protest demonstration against the Scottsboro lynch verdicts. The four workers, three colored and one white, were arrested while defending the Scottsboro Mother and other speakers at the demonstration.

New York, N.Y.

The demonstrators had paraded to 125th Street and Park Avenue, where they gave a rousing welcome to the Scottsboro Mother who arrived at 2 o'clock on the Grand Central railroad from the South. Both on their way to the station and back to Lenox Avenue and 126th Street, the central point of the demonstration, the workers were harassed by police attacks but refused to be provoked, at the same time militantly maintaining their marching ranks.

Workers Prevented Attacks On Mother Wright

Shortly after the meeting opened at 126th St. and Lenox Avenue, the police resumed their provocative tactics. As Mother Wright got up on the speakers platform, the police started to rush the platform, but were deterred by the roar of fierce protest from the huge crowd around the platform and workers on the sidewalks and in tenement house windows. Mother Wright called upon the workers to defend their rights to the streets, of free assemblage and free speech, reciting her own experiences during her European Scottsboro tour with the late J. Louis Engdahl, when they were hounded by the European police, at the instigation of the U. S. State Department, and several times thrown in jail.

"I have faced the bloody police of Germany, Austria and other European countries, with their gas bombs and clubs, in my fight for the lives of my boys and the other Scottsboro boys and I will stay right here and fight to the very end," she fearlessly hurled her challenge into the teeth of the police.

Shortly after Mrs. Wright finished speaking, and Sam Stein, field organizer of the International Labor Defense, mounted the speakers' stand, the police resumed their offensive, driving a heavy cadillac car directly into the crowd in an attempt to overturn the speakers' platform upon Mrs. Wright, who was standing near-by.

Police Drive Car Onto Thickly Crowded Sidewalks

The car was driven right up onto the thickly crowded sidewalk. The workers militantly defended themselves, while a group of white and Negro workers quickly surrounded Mrs. Wright to protect her from the police attacks. Workers in apartment house windows jeered the police and joined the defense, hurling flower pots, grape fruits and other missiles upon the heads of the police.

Police cars and motorcycle cops dashed recklessly into the crowd of women, children and men, hurling gas bombs and wielding their clubs and blackjacks with sadistic brutality. The officer in charge, reminded by a worker of Mayor La Guardia promised to discontinue attacks on workers' demonstrations, answered "to hell with that. We have our orders."

Fight Rages Over Two Hours, Whole Neighborhood Involved.

The fight raged fiercely for over two hours, and spread from 126th Street to 131st Street and Lenox Avenue, as the whole neighborhood became involved in the defense of the Scottsboro Mother and the protest demonstration. Workers rushed from apartment buildings and side streets to defend the demonstration against the hideous attempts of the white ruling class of Alabama and the whole country to burn the Scottsboro boys in the electric chair, despite the world-wide exposure of the brazen "rape" frame-up. Scores of police thugs were sent to the hospital by the infuriated workers. In savage retaliation, the police invaded the headquarters of the Harlem section of the I.L.D., wrecking the furniture and gassing the premises.

Workers reported that the following officers were especially vicious: No. 17686, a Negro cop who brandished his gun and threatened to shoot into the group around Mother Wright; No. 17624, No. 17072, No. 17073 and 17892 were among those who beat up the four arrested workers in the police station. No. 17073 told William Mayers, one of the three arrested colored workers that "all niggers should be lynched. The Scottsboro boys have been held too long. They should have been lynched long ago." No. 17892 told Mayers not to show his face on Lenox Avenue again if he valued his life.

Hoffman, a white worker, was rescued from the police by a group of workers and taken to a house on 127th St., where he was examined by Dr. Reuben Young, who declared he had a fractured rib and probably an injury to his spine.

Louise Lawrence, a young Negro girl who went to the rescue of a Negro woman knocked down by the police, was jumped on by six cops and savagely beaten up. One punched her in the mouth knocking out several of her teeth. She, in turn, was rescued by a white woman worker.

Among the victims of the unbridled police brutality were several hundred Harlem children who, under the League of Struggle for Negro Rights, had demonstrated earlier in the day against the fire-trap tenements, which recently caused the death of several Negro adults and children, trapped by fires. The children had marched from fire-gutted tenements to the station to greet Mother Wright and back to 126th Street and Lenox Avenue where the fiercest police attack occurred, with gas bombs, clubs and cars driven into the mass of demonstrators.

Harlem was seething with angry excitement yesterday and from many workers proposals were made for a city-wide march to City Hall to protest the police attack and demand that Mayor La Guardia keep his promise that no demonstrations would be attacked by his police.

The Harlem Section of the Communist Party answered the police attack by calling another Scottsboro demonstration for next Saturday, urging all workers and their organizations throughout the city to rally to the defense of the Negro masses and the Scottsboro boys, and to defend the right of workers to free assemblage and free speech.

Scottsboro Appeal Filed In High Court

Daily Worker

Mass Fight Is Growing All Over Coutry in Response to I.L.D. Plea

3-7-34

NEW YORK.—The bill of exceptions on which the appeal of the lynch sentences of Heywood Patterson and Clarence Norris, Scottsboro boys, to the State Supreme Court, wll be based, were filed in Montgomery Monday, March 5, it was announced by the International Labor Defense yesterday. March 6 was the final date on which the papers could be filed, under Judge W. W. (Lynch) Callahan's recent ruling.

New York, N.Y.

Because of Judge Callahan's action in refusing to hear the motion for a new trial, the I. L. D., with only ten days to do work for which 90 days is normally allowed, was obliged to keep four lawyers and three printers working day and night for a week to perfect the bill of exceptions. The work included the digesting into narrative form of 3,500 pages of the court record. Mrs. Carol Weiss King, Sol H. Cohen, Eli Schwartzbart, and Shad Polsire were the lawyers, who prepared the appeal papers, under the direction of Joseph Brodsky, chief counsel for the I. L. D., and Osmond K. Fraenkel.

Daily Worker

The I. L. D. has called for intensification of the campaign over the entire country for the immediate, unconditional, and safe release of the Scottsboro boys. Protests and demands should be addressed to the State Supreme Court and to Governor B. M. Miller. Montgomery, Ala., and to President Roosevelt. Washington, D. C.

3-7-34.

DENVER, Colo., March 6. — A Scottsboro Emergency Committee of Action, composed of ten Negro and white workers and intellectuals, was elected at a mass meeting held here in Fern Hall, to protest the latest moves of Judge Callahan in refusing to hear a motion for a new trial for Heywood Patterson and Clarence Norris, and to plan mass action in Denver and Colorado.

New York

More than 300 attended the meeting, which was called by the International Labor Defense. Another mass meeting will be held Sunday in a Negro church whose minister volunteered its use at the previous meeting.

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Raise Scottsboro Defense Funds.

NEW YORK.—Eight dollars and fifty-seven cents ($8.57) was collected for Scottsboro Defense at the Communist Party Forum, held at Monroe Court Community Room, 47th Street and Foster Avenue, Sunnyside, L. I., Wednesday, Feb. 28; Comrade J. Allen speaking on the Negro Question. The money was turned over to the International Labor Defense.

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Paris Commune Meet in Cleveland March 18.

CLEVELAND, March 6. — The Cleveland District of the International Labor Defense is holding a Paris Commune Celebration, Sunday, March 18, 3 p. m., at the Ukrainian Labor Temple, 1051 Auburn Ave. This meeting will be linked up with the situation in Austria, Germany, and the Scottsboro case, and will open a 3 months' recruiting campaign for new members.

There will be a very interesting program and speakers. Dancing will follow. The admission is 20c in advance and 25c at the door.

More 'Scottsboro Boys' in Solitary

Birmingham

BIRMINGHAM, Ala., March 24. (AP)—Pronounced "willful trouble makers" by jail officials, five Negro defendants in the "Scottsboro case" tonight are in solitary confinement, following a second battle with fellow prisoners in as many days.

3-25-34

Willie Robertson, Ocie Powell and Eugene Williams were given cells beside those of Roy and Andy Wright on "solitary row" today by Warden Felix L. Erwin. The warden accused Robertson of taking 50 cents from Ezekiel Mitchell, whom the Wright brothers fought with yesterday, and accused Powell and Williams of attacking Sam Woods, another prisoner.

Woods, who is held for murder, was not seriously injured in today's fight, and neither was Mitchell in yesterday's. Reasons for the two disturbances remained a mystery, but Warden Erwin ascribed them both to "trouble making" by the five Negroes ordered into solitary.

MONTGOMERY, ALA.
ADVERTISER

MAR 16 1934

ON WRITING A PROPAGANDA PLAY

Mr. John Wexler, who turned out as pretty a piece of hateramatics as one is likely to hear of in ten purple-mooned Springs, when he dipped pen in nitric acid and scribbled "They Shall Not Die," must chuckle gleefully over his handiwork.

His play, based (very) on the so-called Scottsboro cases, seems to have followed this formula.

(1) Our side: Innocent Negro boys who never harmed a soul, lovers of poetry and Things Beautiful. Ruby Bates, who lied until she saw the light and told the truth. New York lawyers who spurned gold to fight for Humanity and Justice against Great Odds.

2) The Other Side: Six liars, 24 murderers, three torturers, and a State of bigots.

Mr. Wexler painted wings on the characters in section one, placed harps in their hands and let the play proceed. For every lily he gilded on His Side he painted a horse thief's mustachio on every villain on the Other Side.

Scottsboro Case Lawyers Do 90-Day Job In Nine Days To Overcome Ala. Strategy In Celebrated Frameup

NEW YORK, N. Y.—With the appeal in the Heywood Patterson and Clarence Norris cases filed in spite of the attempt by Attorney-General Thomas E. Knight and Judge W. W. Callahan to deprive three Scottsboro boys of their appeal rights, the International Labor Defense is preparing to further expose the ruthless role of the court in legal steps appealing Callahan's refusal to hear the motion for a new trial, it was announced this week.

Papers are being prepared on a motion for re-argument of the motion for a new trial, on the grounds that Callahan deliberately misled the defense attorneys in granting extension after extension, and then conveniently cancelling them on the excuse that he had conveniently "forgotten" the statute of law which would have prevented him from giving these extensions.

90-Day Job In Nine Days

The papers are being prepared under the direction of Osmond K. Fraenkel, well-known attorney who is in charge of the appeals for the I. L. D., and who directed also the tremendous job of preparing the appeal papers—a 90-day job which was accomplished in nine, and kept three printing houses and six lawyers working day and night to defeat the sinister plans of Knight and Callahan.

The bill of exceptions on which the appeal of the sentence of Patterson and Norris, Scottsboro boys, to the Alabama Supreme Court, will be based, were filed in Montgomery Monday, March 5, it was announced by the International Labor Defense. March 6 was the final date on which the papers could be filed, under Judge Callahan's recent ruling.

A Tremendous Job

The work of perfecting the bill of exceptions included the digesting into narrative form of 3,500 pages of the court record. Mrs. Carol Weiss King, Sol H. Cohen, Eli Schwartzbart, and Shad Polsire were the lawyers who prepared the appeal papers, under the direction of Joseph Brodsky, chief counsel for the I. L. D., and Fraenkel.

The I. L. D. has called for intensification of the campaign over the entire country for "the immediate, unconditional, and safe release of the Scottsboro boys." Protests should be addressed to the Alabama Supreme Court and to Governor B. M. Miller, Montgomery, Ala., and to President Roosevelt, Washington, D. C., the I. L. D. urges.

Judge Callahan on February 24 held he was without jurisdiction in motions for a new trial. He has sixty days in which to sign the bills that then go to the State Supreme Court for a hearing and decision.

Case Nearly 3 Years Old

Patterson and Norris, arrested with seven other boys at Paint Rock, Ala., on March 25, 1931, and charged with attacking two white girl hoboes aboard a Southern Railway freight train, were first convicted by Jackson County juries. Patterson has been twice convicted, in addition, by Morgan County juries at Decatur, Ala. Norris has been convicted twice, once in Scottsboro and once in Decatur.

One boy, a minor, has never been convicted, but is still being held a prisoner despite attempts to secure his freedom on bond and by habeas corpus actions. The other youths, exclusive of this minor, have been under death sentence once.

Verdict Set Aside

The Alabama Supreme Court granted a new trial to one on the ground of age. The U. S. Supreme Court set aside the convictions of seven of the boys because they had not had fair trials.

Judge James E. Horton, who presided at Patterson's second trial set aside the jury verdict, holding that the evidence indicated innocence more than it did guilt. He was removed from the case and the more typical Alabama judge, "Speed" Callahan, was put in charge.

NEW YORK MIRROR

MAR 19 1934

Moscow Scapegoat for Local Rioters

Police handling of the Harlem riot, where 5,000 demonstrated against Scottsboro verdicts, appears, despite complaints of official brutality, to have been characterized by restraint. In fighting that lasted more than an hour no police guns or clubs were in evidence. It was a hand-to-hand affair in which uniformed men and detectives took a good deal of punishment.

That the white element encouraging thousands of negroes to resist police orders was Communistic in large degree is shown by the few arrests made. Among these Samuel Stein, who was a Communist candidate for Assemblyman in the Third Manhattan District last year, is the chief culprit, officials maintain. The tendency is to attribute all such disturbances to Moscow's machinations. Quite probably Moscow never heard of Stein. We have our own disturbers who find the Moscow hatrack convenient.

When this government recognized the Soviets there was an express understanding that all propaganda subversive of American governmental policies and principles should cease on this continent. So far there has been no evidence the Russians have not lived up to their promises. Until there is such evidence it will be well to discount claims of local disturbers that they are affiliated with Soviet organizations.

Lynchings - 1934
6
Legal Punishment for Rape.
6

Alabama

4664

Nation 3-28-34
vol. 138, no. 3586

MARCH 25 marks the third anniversary of the arrest of the nine Negro youths accused of rape in the famous Scottsboro case. In the three years which have passed since that March day all nine of the defendants have been tried once and eight of them sentenced to the electric chair, a mistrial having been declared in the case of the ninth boy, Roy Wright. The two youngest boys have by now been turned over to the jurisdiction of the juvenile court. Of the remaining seven, Clarence Norris has been tried and found guilty twice, and Heywood Patterson three times. The defendants are confined in the death house in Birmingham prison, and on March 17 it was reported that four of them had been put in solitary confinement for fighting with a Negro stool pigeon. Heywood Patterson's third trial took place last December, and on the last day of the trial Samuel Leibowitz, the lawyer for the defense, asked for thirty days from the typing of the minutes in which to file a motion for a new trial. Judge Callahan, the presiding judge, refused, but granted thirty days from that day, December 6. Within twenty-eight days Osmund K. Fraenkel, defense attorney, filed the motion, but he was told by Attorney-General Knight that the motion should have been filed during the December term of court. When Judge Callahan was reminded of his thirty-day permission, he declared that if he had given such permission, he had no right to do so under the Alabama law. He accordingly denied the motion for a new trial and the defense was thereupon left only about ten days to file, within the proper time, the bill of exceptions, which involved a reworking of some 3,500 pages of the court record. However, Mr. Fraenkel did file the bill of exceptions on March 5. Judge Callahan has sixty days in which to sign it; after it is signed it goes to the Supreme Court of Alabama.

IT IS EVIDENT that the Alabama Supreme Court will not reverse the decision of the lower court unless it is convinced that the United States Supreme Court would do the same thing. Alabama is thoroughly sick of its *cause célèbre* and would prefer to keep it within State limits if possible. Judge Callahan, moreover, during the trial—with a prospect of an appeal to a higher court constantly before him—attempted at every point to establish disputed points as questions of fact and not of law. Thus he ruled that names of Negro jurors did in fact appear on the jury rolls, not admitting the question raised by the defense of how they got there. It remains for the defense lawyers to find a way of forcing the admission of these disputed facts to the jurisdiction of the higher court. From the conduct of the case so far, the public which is following the fortunes of the Scottsboro boys with sympathetic interest may have confidence that everything that law and able and courageous lawyers can do for the defendants will be done. One may agree or not with the mass-protest tactics of the International Labor Defense, which has defended the Negroes from the end of the first trial; but one cannot fail to give it all credit for devotion to the legal aspects of the case. And by contrary, the courts of Alabama, with the honorable exception of Judge Horton, may feel proud only of the fact that every possible attempt has been made to railroad to the electric chair a group of Negro youths against whom no crime has ever been satisfactorily proved.

WRIGHT
COME
OTHER
RIGHT

WORKERS DEFENDING SCOTTSBORO MOTHER

The picture shows how white and Negro workers rallied to the defense of Mrs. Ada Wright during the brutal police attack last Saturday on the Scottsboro protest demonstration in Harlem. One of the white workers, Sam Stein (right), was arrested with three Negro workers and will be tried in the East 121st Street Court next Wednesday.

Daily Worker
3-24-34

5,000 FIGHT POLICE IN HARLEM STREETS

Times
3-18-34

Trouble Starts as Tear Gas Is Used to Halt an Unlicensed Scottsboro Protest Meeting.

New York, N.Y.

PATROLMEN ARE MAULED

Some Hurt as Missiles Fly, but They Use Neither Pistols Nor Blackjacks.

Five thousand Negroes and whit sympathizers rioted in Harlem yesterday afternoon when detectives used tear-gas bombs to disperse an unauthorized meeting staged to protest the Scottsboro case at Lenox Avenue and 126th Street.

Four police emergency squads, a squad of motorcycle policemen, ten radio cars, and half a dozen automobiles filled with detectives were rushed to the scene, with all available reserves from four police stations, but fighting continued for more than an hour before the police succeeded in clearing the street.

The disturbance centered in Lenox Avenue between 126th and 130th Streets. All things considered, the police displayed great restraint. Although a dozen of them had their uniforms torn, a dozen more were severely pummeled and a score or more were struck by ripe fruit and missiles hurled from tenement windows, they used neither blackjacks nor pistols.

Protest Results, However.

Nevertheless, Solomon Harper of the defense committee of the League of Struggle for Negro Rights protested later over what he termed "the uncalled-for and brutal attack of the police."

"We vigorously protest," he declared, "against Mayor LaGuardia who claims to be a friend of the Negro people and who previously stated that no police violence would be used against the demonstrators. The police were reminded of this statement of Mayor LaGuardia, but one directly in charge said: "To hell with the order."

Harper said a delegation would be appointed to lodge an official protest with the Mayor.

The casualties resulting from the riot were nearly all on the side of the police and none of them was serious enough to require medical attention. Three white men and a Negro were arrested. They were Samuel Stein, 27 years old, who said he was a member of the International Labor Defense and Communist candidate for Assemblyman in the Third (Manhattan) District at the last election; Hugh Workman, 20, of 44 West 131st Street; Bennie Stamps, 32, of 54 West 130th Street and William Mayers, 38, of 210 West 133d Street. Mayers, a Negro, was charged with inciting to riot; the others were charged with disorderly conduct. All were taken to Night Court later.

According to the police, the meeting at 126th Street and Lenox Avenue was arranged by the International Labor Defense to mark the return from Alabama of Mrs. Ada Wright, mother of two of the Negro defendants in the Scottsboro case, Roy and Andy Wright. She had gone to Alabama to visit her sons.

Mrs. Wright, the police said, was met at the Pennsylvania Station by Stein, escorted by him to the Grand Central Station and thence by train to the 125th Street station of the New York Central Railroad where a delegation of 1,500 awaited her.

Times
3-18-34
New York

March, Shouting, to Meeting.

Shouting and bearing placards reading "Welcome Ada Wright mother of Roy and Andy," "Free the Nine Scottsboro Boys," and banners of the Young Communists League of Struggle for Negro Rights, the welcomers marched west through 125th Street to Seventh Avenue, north to 135th Street east through 135th Street to Lenox Avenue, and south in Lenox Avenue to 126th Street.

Here a huge crowd, mostly Negroes, awaited them. The crowd surged around a makeshift speakers' platform placed at the northeast corner. The sidewalk was completely blocked and the jam extended out into Lenox Avenue.

Loud cheering and clapping greeted the marchers. Stein, leading Mrs. Wright, elbowed his way through to the speakers' platform, mounted it and began to speak.

He told of Mrs. Wright and her visit to her sons. He introduced her to the crowd. She waved her hand in greeting. Deafening cheers acknowledged her salute. Then two automobiles filled with detectives drove up. One of the detectives got out and pushed his way through to the speakers' stand.

"Where's your permit for this meeting?" he demanded of Stein. The speaker ignored him, went on haranguing the crowd.

The detective, Omar Ames was insistent.

"Show your permit," he demanded, "or I'll have to break up the meeting." Stein smiled and went on with his speech.

Ames returned to his car. While one car moved toward the throng, the occupants shouting to the crowd to disperse, the other car was driven upon the sidewalk. The crowd gave way sullenly. There were shouts of "Cossacks."

But as soon as the cars had passed, the throng surged back around the stand, booing and jeering the detectives.

Tear Gas Is Used.

The cars turned around, advanced again. This time the crowd blocked their way, surrounding them. An ugly situation developed. Shouts of the detectives to "stand back" were ignored. Muttered threats were made. One of the detectives seized a tear gas bomb and tossed it out of the car. Two others were thrown. The gas rose. Several Negroes gasped, fell back choking, tears streaming down their faces.

"Gas!" the cry was almost magic in its effect. The crowd scattered and fled. But not Stein. He descended from the speakers' stand and upbraided the detectives. A few of his more daring associates joined him. As the gas fumes were wafted away by the wind, their numbers were rapidly augmented.

The detectives climbed out of their cars. They ordered Stein and the others to move on. They did so reluctantly, shouting back over their shoulders.

Then missiles began to fly. Stones, fruit, eggs and sticks weree hurled at the detectives. Some one telephoned to Police Headquarters. Radio cars arrived with sirens screeching. Their crews found the detectives menaced by a gradually increasing throng, for by this time the gas had been dissipated.

The crowd was in an angry mood. Police reserves and emergency squads were called. Soon a dozen fights were in progress between policemen and demonstrators. The hurling of missiles was renewed. Residents of tenements fronting the street retreated to their apartments and threw eggs and fruit from the windows. A grapefruit struck a Negro policeman on the head, knocking him down. He got up, saw a face leering at him from a window and hurled the grapefruit back wide of the mark.

ayers, the Negro arrested, retreated to Lenox Avenue and 127th Street and tried to rally the crowd. He was driven on by Patrolman Joseph Pappace. A block away, at 128th Street, he halted and made another attempt. Pappace followed him and ordered him to keep moving.

"I'll lick all you cops if you'll take your shields off," Mayers shouted. Then he turned and fled. Pappace overtook and arrested him. Stein, Workman and Stamps were arrested after similarly defying the police.

Time after time the crowd dispersed into side streets, only to swarm back into the avenue when the police turned their attention elsewhere. It was not until the motorcycle policemen arrived that the fighting was finally stopped and Lenox Avenue and the adjacent streets cleared. The police estimated that more than 5,000 persons took part in the riot.

Harper, in his denunciation of "police brutality," declared that when the detective cars drove on the sidewalk to break up the meeting, Mrs. Wright "would have been run down if some one had not pulled her away."

He said there would be more protests tonight at a meeting in the New Star Casino, 107th Street and Park Avenue, where Mrs. Wright will appear.

SCOTTSBORO PLAY REVIEW PROTESTED

Solicitor Seibels Adds Voice To Resentment Over New York Times Report

Advertiser 3-24-34

Solicitor W. T. Seibels, of Montgomery, and Orville B. Fanning, of Huntsville, recently wrote letters to the editor of The New York Times, severely criticising a recent review of the current play, "They Shall Not Die," in that paper. Both writers expressed astonishment that the reporter, F. Raymond Daniell, found the play strikingly similar to the actual Scottsboro case, which Mr. Daniell reported for The Times.

"It seems to me that he has deliberately distorted the facts in order to satisfy readers of The Times, realizing that a majority of them want to believe the play an honest replica of the trials," wrote Mr. Fanning. "No wonder his New York friends expressed surprise when he did not agree that the play is 'a libelous travesty on truth,'" the letter added. "I have not seen the play, nor have I read it, but judging from Mr. Daniell's review, and the reviews of others I know he is wrong and his friends are right."

Solicitor Seibels resented the plane to which he charged Daniell has descended in his articles dealing with the trial of the negroes and the review of the play as well. Last Sunday's Times carried the following protest from Mr. Seibels:

"I read, with some degree of amusement, in your issue on March 4, 'An Alabama Court in Forty-Fifth Street,' by F. Raymond Daniell. Mr. Daniell came to Alabama thoroughly sold on the idea that the Scottsboro negroes were innocent. This he wished to believe, no matter what facts were adduced in the trial; no matter what three juries had declared they were guilty, they were innocent, nevertheless, and every one in Alabama was and is out of step with this city slicker.

"Personally I have no interest in these cases, nor in their final determination, but am content to abide by the findings of the juries and the courts of my State. I do, however, resent the plane to which a writer for so great a newspaper as The New York Times has descended. The reference to the backwoods of Alabama was purely prejudicial. His mentioning of a 'hostile attitude' toward him was purely imaginary. His allusions to the cuspidors and tobacco-spitting jurors was low, prejudicial and contemptible. And, finally, his reference to the woman, Ruby Bates, as being probably the best dressed woman in Decatur (women of that type usually are well dressed) was highly illuminative."

Mr. Fanning said in his protest that Daniell's description of the Decatur court room was not accurate. "He insinuates that the courthouse is little more than a country hovel deep in the backwoods. Surely he must remember that it is a new building and very modern, if not equal to City Hall in New York.

"I am sorry that Alabama was 'hostile' to him. Indeed, he must have been in grave danger during his stay and he was a brave man to venture below the M. and D. line in such trying times! He is surely capable of writing about Southern prejudices because he is afflicted with a bad case himself......I was at the Decatur trial and, believing with the average Southerner that the initial trial at Scottsboro had been too hasty, I was pleased to note that Judge Horton was endeavoring to conduct the trial fairly. No fault could be found with the manner in which that admirable jurist presided, much to the surprise of the defense counsel, the International Labor Defense and the Communists. Thus one of their chief means of criticism was throttled.

"The average Southerner regrets the sore spots that have come up because of the Scottsboro case. He is sorry that Alabama and the South have been placed in a bad light, through little fault of their own, however. But the most lamentable part of it all is that he is driven to conclude that he can expect but little help from outsiders so long as they insist upon dealing with him and his problem—the negro problem—with their ancient Uncle Tom's Cabin doctrines."

Huntsville, Ala., Times
March 16, 1934

NEGRO APPEALS REACH CAPITAL

Lawyers File Papers With Supreme Court Clerk

MONTGOMERY, March 16 (AP)—Certificates of the appeals of the two negroes, convicted in the famous Scottsboro cases, in Morgan circuit court, reached the Alabama supreme court today.

The appeals will be placed on the supreme court docket to be called during the week of May 14, with Eighth division cases.

Under supreme court procedure, the submission of the case on argument before the court may be postponed beyond this date, upon agreement of defense counsel and the attorney general, who represents the state.

The Alabama supreme court, in a 6-1 decision, affirmed the death sentences of the two negroes when the case reached the supreme court here on its first appeal.

The filing of the appeals acts as an automatic stay of execution until the supreme court has disposed of the case.

Montgomery, Ala., Advertiser
March 24, 1934

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Bronx Workers To Protest Torture of Negro Boys Friday

Daily Worker

Meets Being Arranged in Many Cities To Defend Scottsboro Boys

3-18-34

NEW YORK.—Bronx workers will hold a protest meeting at 642 Southern Boulevard Friday night against the latest campaign of terror against the Scottsboro boys, five of whom have been placed in solitary confinement and threatened with indefinite solitary confinement by Warden F. L. Erwin of the Jefferson County jail, Birmingham, Ala.

Similar protest meetings are being called throughout the country as white and Negro workers rally in indignant protests against this new victimization of the Scottsboro boys. Only recently the boys were being deprived of comforts and letters sent them by workers throughout the country until mass protests, evoked when the International Labor Defense exposed this condition, forced the prison authorities to discontinue the thefts of cigarettes, etc., sent the boys.

Lynchings - 1934
Legal Punishment for Rape

Alabama.

4665

NEW TRIAL DENIED TO SCOTTSBORO NEGROES

~~Birmingham News~~

Decatur Judge Sustains State's Contention Exceptions Were Filed Too Late

DECATUR, Ala.—(AP) In sustaining two state motions to strike motions for new trials for two of nine Negroes in the Scottsboro case on grounds that the time had expired before the bill of exceptions was filed, Judge W. W. Callahan, of Morgan County Circuit Court, Saturday placed the next move in behalf of the Negroes in the Alabama Supreme Court. 2-25-34

"I am powerless to do anything else, under the law and rules of the court," said Judge Callahan in sustaining the motions to strike offered by Atty. Gen. Knight, on the grounds that the time had expired and, therefore, the court was without jurisdiction in the case.

Birmingham, Ala.

Osmond K. Frankel, New York, and George W. Chamblee, Chattanooga, representing the Negroes, Heywood Patterson and Clarence Norris, said an immediate appeal would be taken to the Alabama Supreme Court on the jury verdicts and that the bill of exceptions would be filed within 10 days.

The Negroes were convicted here last December of attacking Mrs. Victoria Price, of Huntsville, aboard a Southern Railway freight train in Jackson County, March 25, 1931. They were given separate trials, but were both sentenced Dec. 6 to death in the electric chair.

Trials of others under indictment for attacking Mrs. Price or Ruby Bates, who has since repudiated her story that the Negroes harmed her, were contained on motion of Samuel S. Leibowitz, chief of defense counsel, until the Appellate Courts could act Atty. Gen. Knight's two motions on the first two cases. were based on contentions that the defense had not filed the motions for new trials before the statutory last day of the regular term of court as provided by law.

Alabama law provides that a defendant's appeal for an arrest of judgment may be filed within 30 days after judgment is rendered but it must be filed before midnight of the last day of the regular term.

Knight, in his motion, cited that the regular term in which the Negroes were tried ended Dec. 23, and that the bill of exceptions in Patterson's case was filed Dec. 29 and that for Norris Jan. 3.

New Trials For Negroes Denied

Advertiser

2-25-34

Defense Plans Immediate Plea To Supreme Court On Behalf Of Attackers

Montgomery, Ala.

By T. M. DAVENPORT
Associated Press Staff Writer

DECATUR, ALA., Feb. 24.—(AP)—In sustaining two State motions to strike motions for new trials for two of nine negroes in the Scottsboro case on grounds that the time had expired before the bill of exceptions was filed Judge W. W. Callahan, of Morgan County Circuit Court, today placed the next move in behalf of the negroes in the Alabama Supreme Court.

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Knight, in his motion, cited that the regular term in which the negroes were tried ended Dec. 23, and that the bill of exceptions in Patterson's case was filed Dec. 29 and that for Norris Jan. 3.

The Alabama jury law was a target in one of the grounds outlined in briefs filed by attorneys for Patterson and Norris.

Advertiser

The defense brief contended that negroes were "systematically excluded from the jury rolls of Morgan County solely because of their race and color, thereby depriving the defendants of their constitutional rights."

2-25-34

It was on this contention, Liebowitz said at the trials, that he would base an appeal to the U. S. Supreme Court if intervening courts upheld the verdicts.

Montgomery, Ala.

Additional grounds contained in the briefs, filed several weeks ago, alleged that the court had discriminated against the negroes.

The briefs also alleged that a fair trial could not be held in Morgan County because of "prejudice and feeling," and that a change of venue was denied.

Rulings of Judge Callahan in excluding testimony concerning the conduct of Mrs. Price, the prosecutrix, for several days prior to the alleged offense, was another ground raised. The defense brief also contended the evidence did not support the verdict and failed as a matter of law to establish guilt beyond a reasonable doubt.

The negroes were the only two of seven within the jurisdiction of the Morgan County court under a change of venue from Jackson County where in April, 1931, all were sentenced to death who were tried last Fall. Trials of the other five were postponed at the request of defense counsel until the high court acted on the appeals in the two cases.

The remaining two defendants have been adjudged juveniles and are under the jurisdiction of the Morgan County Juvenile Court.

Patterson has been convicted three times, his first sentence, with those of six co-defendants, being set aside by the U. S. Supreme Court on Nov. 7, 1932, on grounds that they were not adequately represented by counsel.

The nine negroes were arrested at Paint Rock, Ala., March 25, 1931, charged with attacking Mrs. Price and Ruby Bates, after throwing several white youths from the train just outside of Stevenson, Ala.

Mrs. Price has testified seven times that she was attacked, but the Bates girl, after appearing in the original trials at Scottsboro, reappeared here in the trial of Patterson last April and repudiated her former story that she was attacked.

The defense counsel has been furnished since the first trials in Scottsboro in 1931 by the International Labor Defense.

Scottsboro Motion Denied By Callahan

Daily Worker

Harlem Meeting Tonight: All Organizations Urged To Rush Protests

2-26-34

BULLETIN

NEW YORK.—Harlem workers will hold a meeting tonight at 415 Lenox Ave., to protest Judge Callahan's refusal to hear the motion for a new trial for Patterson and Norris, and the death of a Negro baby in Harlem Hospital through criminal negligence by the hospital staff.

New York

The League of Struggle for Negro Rights and the Harlem International Labor Defense issued a joint appeal yesterday to all available speakers to report immediately to visit churches and other organizations in Harlem to mobilize mass protests on the two cases. Speakers should report at the I. L. D., 336 Lenox Ave., or the L. S. N. R., 59 W. 135th St. It was also decided to hold a big protest indoor meeting in Harlem this week, with time and place to be announced later.

* * *

DECATUR, Ala., Feb. 25.—Judge W. W. (Lynch) Callahan yesterday refused to hear the motion of the International Labor Defense for a new trial for Haywood Patterson and Clarence Norris, two of the Scottsboro boys re-sentenced to burn in the electric chair in the infamous Decatur lynch verdict which has evoked the furious indignation of the toiling masses throughout the whole world. Osmond K. Fraenkel, famous constitutional attorney, was in Decatur to argue the appeal for the I. L. D.

Callahan granted, instead, a motion made by Attorney General Thomas E. Knight to refuse to hear the appeal on the grounds that it was not filed within the statutory limits. Callahan himself had granted the delays in the filing of the motion, after I. L. D. attorneys had pointed out that the court clerk had taken more than four weeks in preparing the transcript on which the appeal is based By yesterday's decision, Callahan declares that these delays, ordered by himself, were illegal. Thus Callahan adds trickery and deceit to his record of open prejudice in the Decatur trial when he drew the "color line" in his charge to the all-white boss jury, condoned Knight's appeal to the chauvinist prejudices of the jurors, and even neglected to instruct the Patterson and Norris juries that they could acquit the defendants. In both trials, the defense attorneys had to exert pressure on the Ku Klux judge to force him to add this instruction, demanded by law and judiciary procedure.

Daily Worker
2-26-34

Callahan's refusal to hear the motion cuts the time for preparation and filing of appeal papers to exactly one week. This attempt to handicap the legal defense occurs simultaneously with an increasingly vicious attack by the lynchers and their white and Negro reformist and social-fascist agents on the mass defense movement, which alone has saved the nine victims of capitalist justice so far.

New York

* * *

Patterson Calls for Mass Protests

NEW YORK.—William L. Patterson, national secretary of the I. L. D., issued a call yesterday for mass demonstrations in every section of the country and throughout the whole world to protest Callahan's attempt to prevent an appeal. Protests from organizations and meetings should be sent at once to President Roosevelt, Gov. B. M Miller, Montgomery, Ala., and the State Supreme Court of Alabama, for immediate, unconditional release of the Scottsboro boys, proved innocent, reversal of the lynch verdicts, and removal of Judge Callahan. Patterson offered documentary proof of Callahan's agreement to postpone hearing on the motion in the following telegraphic correspondence between Joseph R. Brodsky and Callahan:

"Dec. 28, 1933.

"Hon. W. W. Callahan,
"Circuit Court Judge.
"Decatur, Ala.

"Motion for new trial mailed tonight airmail. Arrive Friday at Decatur. Respectfully request continuance pending filing of amended motion on receipt of transcript of record. Please reply collect.

"JOSEPH R. BRODSKY."

A similar wire was sent Jan. 2 on the Clarence Norris case.

On Dec. 29, the following wire was received by Mr. Brodsky:

"Dec. 29. 1933.

"Motion will be continued to Jan. 27.

"W. W. CALLAHAN."

On Jan. 4, the following telegram was received by Brodsky:

"On your request Norris motion con-

"W. W. CALLAHAN."

Subsequent correspondence between Attorney Osmond J. Fraenkel and Judge Callahan postponed the hearing a second time to Feb. 24.

* * *

Jack London Club Sends Protest

NEWARK, N J., Feb. 25.—The following protest telegram was sent to Judge Callahan today by the Jack London Club:

"We, 100 young workers, students and intellectuals, members of the Jack London Club of Newark, demand the immediate and unconditional release of the nine innocent Negro Scottsboro boys. The results of their many trials has proved not only their innocence but the lynch nature of the capitalist courts and of the courts in the South in particular. We hold that fair trials for either white or Negro toilers in such courts are impossible, and we therefore demand their safe return to their friends and families.

"JACK LONDON CLUB,
"per David Wine, Chairman."

Chattanooga, Tenn.
NEWS

FEB 20 1934

The Race for Money

THE Scottsboro case has been used for money-making purposes by the I. L. D. heretofore. But it was hardly to be expected that the greedy theatrical magnates of New York, who pander to any sort of sensationalism in order to make money, would make a play out of it. Such, however, is the case. "Legal Murder" opened recently, and will close soon, according to the critics. It is founded on the Scottsboro case.

"Every comic supplement Negro trait that was ever devised by men unfamiliar with the Negro of the deep South has been poured into it until those who should be shown as victims of a terror emerge as court fools," says the New York *Journal*.

Another play based on the Scottsboro case will open Wednesday night. It is called "They Shall Not Die." Its author is a capable dramatist, having written "The Last Mile," that grim prison tragedy. But it is obvious that he hopes to profit by the ignorant fanaticism of certain New York groups in this instance.

Justice becomes hamstringed in these days when movies and stage seize upon serious subjects in their mad race for commercial profits.

I.L.D. in New Move for the Scottsboro 9

Mrs. Wright, Gallagher To Speak At Boston Meeting, March 17

3-8-34

NEW YORK.—With the appeal in the Heywood Patterson and Clarence Norris cases filed in spite of the attempt by Attorney-General Thomas E. Knight and Judge W. W. Callahan to rob these Scottsboro boys of their appeal rights, the International Labor Defense is preparing to expose further the ruthless lynch role of the courts in legal steps appealing Callahan's refusal to hear the motion for a new trial, it was announced today.

Papers are being prepared on a motion for re-argument of the motion for a new trial, on the grounds that Callahan deliberately misled the defense attorneys in granting extension after extension, and then conveniently cancelling them on the excuse that he had conveniently "forgotten" the statute of law which would have prevented him from giving these extensions.

The papers are being prepared under the direction of Osmond K. Fraenkel, well-known attorney, who is in charge of the appeals for the I. L. D., and who also directed the tremendous job of preparing the appeal papers—a 90 day job which was accomplished in ten, and kept three printing houses and six lawyers working day and night to defeat the sinister lynch plans of Knight and Callahan.

* * *

Mrs. Wright, Gallagher in Boston March 21

BOSTON, Mass., March 7.—Mrs. Ada Wright, mother of two of the Scottsboro boys, and Leo Gallagher, International Labor Defense attorney just returned from Germany where he participated in the defense of George Dimitroff, Torgler, Popoff and Taneff, and now in Canada where he is assisting in the defense of A. E. Smith, general secretary of the Canadian Labor Defense League, charged with "sedition," will be speakers at a Paris Commune mass meeting here March 21.

The meeting, which will also be a celebration of the release of Dimitroff and a protest meeting against the lynch-sentences against the Scottsboro boys, will be held in Repertory Hall, Huntington Ave near Massachusetts.

First "Street Scene" Manuscript Goes on Sale for Scottsboro Fund

CARMEL, Calif.—(ANP) — Elmer Rice has sent for the Scottsboro Defense Sale at the Western Women's Club in San Francisco, the original first draft in his own handwriting of the germ-idea or theme which later developed into his now famous stage and screen success, "Street Scene." In sending this highly valuable original manuscript, Mr. Rice writes to Langston Hughes, "Because of my great interest in the Scottsboro Defense fund to which I have made frequent contributions, I am sending you a manuscript which for me has a rather sentimental value. It is the original theme or germ from which my play 'Street Scene' subsequently developed."

Another very valuable contribution to the sale has been sent from the South. It is the original paper for the sale of a slave dated back more than seventy years ago, and extremely valuable to collectors.

Protest Attacks on Negro Workers Sat.

Moore Calls for City-Wide Turn-Out in Harlem

Daily Worker

NEW YORK.—In a denunciation of the attempted assassination of Russel Watson, Philadelphia Negro leader, by a white employer and the police attack on last Saturday's Scottsboro demonstration in Harlem, the National Council of the League of Struggle for Negro Rights calls on all white and Negro workers to rally to the mass fight against the growing fascist attacks on the working class, directed with particular venom against the Negro masses.

The call, signed by Richard B. Moore, general secretary of the L. S. N. R., calls for city-wide support by all workers and their organizations for the protest demonstration in Harlem this Saturday noon.

Three More Of Scottsboro Nine Create Trouble

BIRMINGHAM, ALA., March 24.—(AP)—Pronounced "wilful trouble makers" by jail officials, five negro defendants in the "Scottsboro case" tonight are in solitary confinement, following a second battle with fellow prisoners in as many days.

Willie Robertson, Ocie Powell, and Eugene Williams were given cells beside those of Roy and Andy Wright on "solitary row" today by Warden Felix L. Erwin. The warden accused Robertson of taking 50 cents from Ezekiel Mitchell, whom the Wright brothers fought with yesterday, and accused Powell and Williams of attacking Sam Woods, another prisoner.

Advertiser

Woods, who is held for murder, was not seriously injured in today's fight, and neither was Mitchell in yesterday's. Reasons for the two disturbances remained a mystery, but Warden Erwin ascribed them both to "trouble making" by the five negroes ordered into solitary.

3-25-34

The warden said today he was "tired of their actions."

"I am going to keep them all in solitary confinement until they promise to do better," he said. "They have been given every consideration here, and they have been a repeated source of trouble since they arrived.

"We have tried to treat them just as we do all prisoners brought to the jail, but they have proved themselves unwilling to obey instructions.

"I am going to put a stop to all their trouble making," the warden continued.

Erwin said the negroes have done hundreds of dollars damage to jail furniture and equipment since they were brought to Jefferson County for safe keeping.

The negroes in solitary confinement are five of the nine under indictment for attacking Mrs. Victoria Price and Ruby Bates aboard a Southern Railway freight train in Jackson County, Ala., March 25, 1931. Eight of the nine were given death sentences at Scottsboro but the verdicts were set aside by the U. S. Supreme Court.

Two of the nine, Heywood Patterson and Clarence Norris, were convicted at later trials at Decatur, where the cases were sent under change of venue, and are in Kilby Prison, Montgomery. The other seven are in Jefferson County jail here, on the eighth floor of the city's new $3,000,000 courthouse.

Two Scottsboro Negroes Attack Fellow Prisoner

BIRMINGHAM, ALA., March 23.—(AP)—Accused of attacking another negro prisoner, Roy and Andy Wright, defendants in the "Scottsboro case," were in solitary confinement tonight in the Jefferson County jail here.

Advertiser

Warden Felix L. Erwin said he would keep them in solitary "until their attitude changes."

3-24-34

The Wright brothers were accused of attacking Zekiel Mitchell, held for carrying a concealed weapon, as the prisoners were turned into the exercise room.

Montgomery, Ala.!

Warden Erwin said Roy Wright threatened to "kill anyone who tries to put me in solitary," after the warden had told him he must give up his cell in the north end of the jail.

Three deputies sheriff were called into the jail, and the two Wrights were placed in their new cells by force. A knife with a four-inch blade was found on Roy Wright, the warden said. It was open in his pocket, but the negro made no effort to draw the weapon.

Mitchell emerged from the scuffle with the Wright brothers without injury. Neither he nor the Wrights commented on the cause of their differences today.

The Wrights are two of nine negroes charged with attacking Mrs. Victoria Price and Ruby Bates aboard a Southern Railway train near Scottsboro, Ala., March 25, 1931. Two of the defendants, Heywood Patterson and Clarence Norris, are under sentence of death and are in Kilby Prison, Montgomery.

The others, six of whom have been at one time under death sentence, are in jail here.

Alabama.

4666

Lynchings-1934

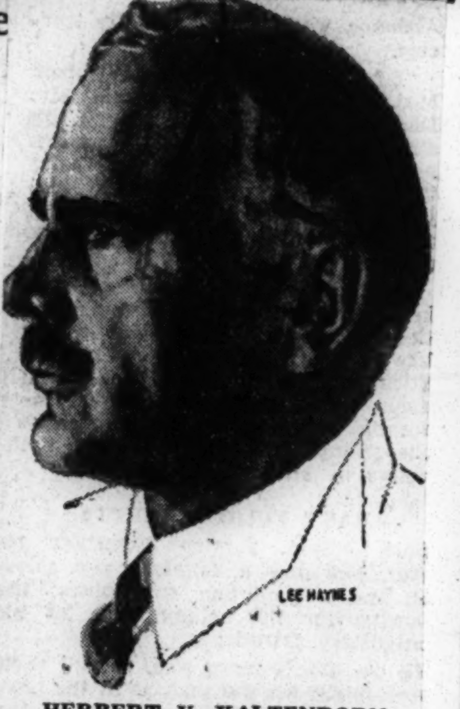
Legal Punishment for Rape

Knight Takes Kaltenborn Slur To U. S. Radio Commission

Advertiser 1-4-34

Resents Broadcast Charge 'Scottsboro Boys' Can't Get Fair Trial

Montgomery



HERBERT V. KALTENBORN

Formal protest against an alleged statement in a radio broadcast by Herbert V. Kaltenborn, announcer for the Columbia network, to the effect that it was as impossible for certain defendants charged with arson to receive a fair trial in Germany as for the "Scottsboro Boys" to be fairly tried in Alabama—was forwarded yesterday by Atty.-Gen. Thomas E. Knight, Jr., to Chairman E. O. Sykes, of the Federal Radio Commission.

The protest is contained in a letter in which Mr. Knight said:

"I am calling your attention officially to this announcement by Mr. Kaltenborn for such action as the Federal Radio Commission finds within its jurisdiction to take."

He personally conducted prosecutions in the so-called Scottsboro cases, the Attorney-General added, and knew the defendants had "a most orderly and scrupulously fair trial."

Advertiser

The broadcast by Mr. Kaltenborn containing the alleged statement reflecting upon the administration of justice in Alabama, went on the air one evening about three weeks ago. Many expressions of resentment were thereafter received by Mr. Knight.

1-4-34

Mr. Kaltenborn is scheduled to deliver a lecture in Montgomery on Feb. 13, under the auspices of the Montgomery Lecture Course.

Text of the letter from the Attorney-General to Judge Sykes, which was placed in the mail yesterday afternoon, addressed to the latter at his office in Washington, D. C., follows:

"Within the past several days, numerous persons have been to me and expressed resentment at an announcement made over the radio by Mr. Kaltenborn.

"The report has come to me that Mr. Kaltenborn in commenting upon the trial of some persons in Germany who were charged with some offense remarked substantially to the effect that it was just as impossible for them to secure a fair trial in Germany as it was for the 'Scottsboro Boys' to receive a fair trial in the State of Alabama.

"I am very much surprised that any broadcasting chain would allow such an imputation to be made by an announcer. I find quite a bit of resentment in this State growing out of this reflection upon the good name of Alabama.

"I am calling your attention officially to this announcement by Mr. Kaltenborn for such action as the Federal Radio Commission finds within its jurisdiction to take.

"The State of Alabama has been scurrilously slandered by such statements as this and some press reports of the proceedings in the so-called Scottsboro cases.

"I personally conducted these recent prosecutions and I do know that the defendants had a most orderly and scrupulously fair trial."

Move for New Trials for 2 of Scottsboro Boys

Daily Worker

Six Points Raised in Demand for Retrying of Scottsboro Boys

1-5-34

DECATUR, Ala., Jan. 4.—Motions for new trials for Clarence Norris and Heywood Patterson have been filed here with Judge W. W. Callahan and copies delivered to Attorney-General Thomas E. Knight at Montgomery, by the International Labor Defense, it was announced today.

New York, N.Y.

At the same time it was announced that hearing on the motions has been postponed to January [illegible], by which date the transcript of the trial record will have been completed. The preliminary motions filed now will probably be replaced by completed motions after the attorneys have received and studied the record in the case.

Six main points are raised in the motions, which demand reversal of the verdict of the Decatur lynch jury.

The illegality of the indictments under which the boys were tried, and which were handed down by a lily-white grand jury picked in violation of the 14th amendment to the U. S. Constitution is put forward as sufficient basis for a reversal. Besides this, the fact that the jury record was tampered with, and names of Negroes forged on it by Jackson county officials, proved in court, and that Judge Callahan brazenly refused to recognize this proven fact, is also held to be reversible error.

Denounce Exclusion of Negroes from Juries

The I. L. D. has pointed out that while Judge Callahan has it in his power to reverse the verdict, he himself was the chief lyncher in the court, as proved by his open coaching of prosecution witnesses, his obvious prejudice toward the defendants, and his closing charge to the jury. Only mass pressure can force Judge Callahan to reverse, the I.L.D. said.

The illegal exclusion of Negroes from the trial jury is also cited as ground for reversal.

In the denial of a change of venue, the I.L.D. charges that it was not only proved by numerous affidavits that the Scottsboro boys and their lawyers were in danger of losing their lives in Decatur and that it was impossible to obtain any semblance of a fair trial in Morgan County, but also that this was proved in the course of the trial and especially in the selection of trial jurors.

Many on Jury Venire Admitted Prejudice

In the Patterson case, it is pointed out, 25 prospective jurors out of one hundred were honest enough to admit they had fixed opinions of his guilt—set by the lynch-campaign of the Alabama white ruling-class press, and by the lynch-incitement of ex-Senator Heflin, Knight and others—and in the Norris trial, 35 out of a hundred.

In spite of this large proportion of admitted fixed opinions, the I. L. D. charged this would have been even larger had the jurors not hidden their opinions for the purpose of getting on the jury in the first place, and had not Callahan made an illegal definition of fixed opinion and brought pressure on the prospective jurors not to admit such opinion.

Judge Maneuvered To Help Prejudiced Jurors

So brazen was this maneuver of Callahan's, it was stated, that one juror, Humphries, who actually admitted fixed opinion in the Patterson trial, denied it and actually served on the Norris jury after pressure had been brought upon him by the judge. Callahan's definition of fixed opinion put the burden of proof of innocence upon the defendant, the motion-papers, supported by the record, show. This is in direct violation of the supposed principle of law that the burden of proof is upon the prosecution, and if the prosecution cannot prove its case, the defendant must be acquitted whether any defense or denial is entered or not.

Verdict in Contradiction of Evidence

The general prejudical attitude of Callahan, who acted as prosecutor in the lynch trial, is cited as a reversible point, and specific charges of prejudice are made against him besides.

It is shown that beyond this Callahan deliberately excluded important testimony, both in cross-examinations of witnesses, and in several cases the entire testimony of other witnesses.

Callahan Barred Medical Testimony

Callahan refused to permit any testimony as to the physical condition of Victoria Price, the part of the medical testimony which proved the Scottsboro boys could not have raped her, and yet in his charge to the jury referred to, the one fact he did allow to be presented as proof of rape.

In general, the I.L.D. charges—and backs up the charge with specific proof from the record, Callahan made every effort to exclude all proof of innocence of the boys, acting in a manner almost unexampled for high-handed crookedness and brazen prejudice, in the history of capitalist frame-ups in America.

In the Patterson case, the exclusion of the testimony of Ruby Bates and of Dr. E. E. Reisman of Chattanooga, a gynecologist, were in themselves reversible errors due to prejudice.

Judge, Prosecutor, Appealed to Prejudice

Other grounds on which reversal is demanded in the Patterson case are the raising of the color issue by Judge Callahan in his charge to the jury, to passion and prejudice made by and the direct and admitted appeal Attorney-General Thomas E. Knight in his summation.

At the same time that the motions for new trials were filed, the International Labor Defense, through its national office in New York, and the nineteen district offices in every section of the country, issued a call for a flood of protests and protest actions throughout the United States, to demand reversal of the lynch-verdicts of Decatur. Protests should be addressed to Judge W. W. Callahan, at Decatur, Alabama, demanding immediate, unconditional freedom, for the nine innocent Scottsboro Negro boys.

Charleston, S. C., News & Courier
January 7, 1934

Trying the Scottsboro Case

The crime against womanhood, for which the Scottsboro negro has been tried, is not the same crime in gravity in different parts of the country. In many states it is not a capital crime, as it is in the South, and it is impossible that majority public opinion in New York, for instance, shall look upon it as it is looked upon in Alabama and other Southern states.

The correspondent of The New York Times wrote, with an air of surprise, that Judge Callahan in his charge to the jury in the case against the negro Patterson said, "It matters not whether the complainant was the most despised, ignorant and abandoned woman of the community or the spotless virgin and daughter of a prominent home of luxury and learning.'"

Thatt, precisely, is how "we Southerners" feel and think on this subject. Perhaps New York cannot understand us, and it is regrettable, but of course we cannot and shall not change our opinion.

We Southerners know that in the consideration of this particular crime we must recognize the fact that we have two races in our territory. We cannot be so broad or liberal, as are our friends in the North, where is, practically, but one race. When Judge Callahan discusses the "race question" in his charge, he is a realist, that is all, and not an evader of truth.

So, we Southerners are aware that for the protection of the whole white race exactly the same application of law must be to the good woman and the bad in cases of this kind. So it should be were a negro woman the victim. To admit any other principle in the trial of cases of the crime womanhood would be extremest fully.

The News and Courier, not less than The New York Times, is opposed, in all cases, regardless of provocation, to lynching, and in the last sixty years has done more to build up public opinion against it in the South than has any Northern newspaper—and at more sacrifice. The Times does not speak for the Southern opponents of lynching of which The News and Courier is representative. For that we have no quarrel with it. It is simple not of our kind, does not "speak our language," cannot think our thoughts.

The News and Cpurier hopes tha the attitude of The Times, which has not been partisan or aggressive, and of the Northern agencies active in this Scottsboro case will not have lamentable results for the negroes of Alabama. So it hopes.

Judge Callahan is a better and wiser friend of the negroes in Alabama than The Times is.

Huntsville, Ala., Times
Janaury 2, 1934

The Real Issue

The bar association of Athens last week paid a very deserved tribute to Judge James E. Horton in unanimously requesting him to become a candidate to succeed himself on the circuit bench of that district.

It is to be wondered that the bars of Decatur, Cullman and towns in that judicial district do not take similar action.

The question of Judge Horton's reelection is, essentially, not one of personal ambition or preferment.

It is, in a large measure, not a question of judicial fitness or ability. He is conceded to have both in abundant measure. The same may be granted to his two opponents, also, for all we know.

But the underlying point or issue is the opposition to Judge Horton for his courage in running counter to public opinion, in the matter of his decision in the first Scottsboro trial at Decatur, and rendering an opinion that squared, in his mind, with the facts and the evidence in the case.

It is proposed to punish him, for forgetting political considerations in the exercise of his judicial functions, and for rendering a decision that, as he conceived it, after a thorough judicial study of the case, was upright, and according to the dictates of his conscience.

That opinion may have been wrong. He may have erred judicially in granting a new trial to one of the negro defendants.

But after calm, judicial study, he held that justice demanded a new trial, and he had the fortitude, the backbone, the moral courage to forget popular sentiment, to cast aside political considerations, to discard what would be the consequences to himself and his fortunes, and to grant a new trial.

While the rival candidates have personal and legal qualifications, no doubt, to commend them for the bench to the voters, the basis of their opposition is unquestionably rooted in the unpopularity of Judge Horton's decision in the Decatur case.

This makes the judicial contest take on a wider significance than merely a battle between personalities, or between the fitness of one candidate over another for this important post.

The essential issue is whether a fearless judge of unimpeachable character and integrity is to be penalized for upholding and remaining true to the oath he swore when he took office, even though it involves rendering an unpopular decision.

Such an issue transcends county and personal lines. It raises squarely the question of the integrity of our courts, and those who sit on them.

THE I. L. D. AND ALABAMA

Chicago Defender

When all things are considered with respect to the Scottsboro case in relation to the part played by the International Labor Defense, much can be said both for and against their activities. There is little doubt in the minds of those who have the capacity to think understandingly that those boys did not rape the two white girls in question. It is also clear to every impartial student of affairs that the manner and approach in the conduct and trial of the boys in question could have been handled through calmer channels of judgment.

While there is no desire to look with critical disfavor upon the efforts of those who may seek to right a great social wrong, there is, however, legitimate justification for discussion as to methods used, especially when those methods are likely to be seized upon as the determining factor upon which a decision may rest involving the lives of nine human beings.

The methods used by both the authorities of Alabama and the defense as well have neither helped the state from the standpoint of decency and respectability nor have they helped the black people of America as a party to the travesty. One thing, however, is true: the method and procedure used by those who sought to defend the Scottsboro case have served to bring to the front in the state of Alabama again certain forces against which the statute of limitations had run in so far as them having the respect and confidence of the better thinking people of the state.

Out of the questionable activities of this case Ex-Senator Tom Heflin, Alabama's chief mudslinger and decaying peddler of race hatred, found an inglorious opportunity to emerge from his corrupted environment of social and political oblivion to a place of prominence among the distorted minds of the state, and again old Tom goes forth to sow seed of hate and religious bigotry in some of the soil of the better consciousness of the state. And what does this mean? It means that the principles which the leading citizens of Alabama fought for and accomplished when they eliminated old Tom from public life will have to be redestroyed.

Those who assume to speak for the I. L. D. may answer this question by saying, "We are fighting for the equality of man and in such fights often innocent life must be taken to awaken the innermost consciousness of the people." While this viewpoint may in part be true, still the question remains a debatable one as to the lasting spiritual values and their positive impression for good or evil upon the human consciousness of the state.

The better thinking people, both white and black, of Alabama prior to the advent of the Scottsboro case had formed and established a working agreement on the major question affecting the two races in the state. Interracial understanding had reached the point where beneficial results were evident.

New Trials For Negroes To Be Argued Today

Advertiser

DECATUR, ALA., Feb. 23.—(AP)—Another legal step in the "Scottsboro case" will be made here tomorrow, as attorneys for two of the nine negro defendants under death sentence argue a motion for a new trial.

The two negroes, Heywood Patterson and Clarence Norris, were convicted and sentenced to death here last December on charges of attacking Mrs. Victoria Price aboard a Southern Railway freight train in Jackson County on March 25, 1931.

2-24-34

In briefs filed to support motions the attorneys for the negroes raised several alleged grounds for new trials.

The briefs held the court discriminated against the negroes, that a change of venue was denied, that a fair trial could not be held in Morgan County because of "prejudice and feeling," and that the evidence did not warrant the verdict.

Montgomery

A constitutional ground was raised in the briefs, contending that a new trial should be granted on allegations that "negroes were excluded from the jury rolls, solely because of race and color."

Other grounds included the exclusion by Judge W. W. Callahan who presided of testimony designed to show the conduct of Mrs. Price several days prior to the alleged offense.

If the new trial is denied, the case will be appealed to the Alabama Supreme Court.

Patterson is under the third death sentence imposed in Alabama courts and Norris under the second.

Lynchings - 1934
Legal Punishment for Rape

Alabama

4667

SEND CHALLENGE TO CHRISTIANITY, CITE SCOTTSBORO

Courier
1-20-34
Pittsburgh Pa.

DETROIT, Mich., Jan. 18—(ANP)—Using the Scottsboro case as a typical example of injustices perpetuated upon minority groups in America and questioning the part organized Christianity should play, the Pastors' Brotherhood of Detroit, through Rev. R. L. Bradby, its chairman, addressed the following telegram to a number of religious bodies:

"Faith in the integrity of organized Christianity, is challenged by the apparent unwillingness of the leaders of organized Christianity to speak unequivocally and specifically against wrongs committed upon minority groups in America. Is it left to radical organizations to practice Brotherhood under conditions of extreme pressure? Cannot the church say one word upon the Scottsboro Tragedy? —Signed: The Pastor's Brotherhood of Detroit, R. L. Bradby, chairman."

The Federal Council of Churches of Christ In America, promptly replied pointing out the efforts which they had made in the Scottsboro case. Samuel McCrea, general secretary, wrote:

Probably you do not know the statement which the Federal Council of Churches adopted by official action of its Executive Committee on the Scottsboro case.

In addition to making this formal utterance we have tried in many informal ways to bring the influence of the Federal Council to bear upon the Scottsboro situation in the interest of justice for the victims. For example, we sent personal letters and had our friends send also to ministers of their acquaintance in Alabama expressing concern over the situation and urging them to interest themselves actively in the problem of Alabama justice. We sent telegrams to the governor and other officials of the State urging protection for those on trial and their attorneys. Our Department of Race Relations was represented at the mass meeting held recently in New York when a strong telegram of protest was sent to the President of our country.

"Perhaps I should add that, unfortunately, the Federal Council of Churches tends to be regarded by Southerners as a Northern organization and any action on our part is regarded as 'Yankee intrusion.'

"One thing which our Department of Race Relations has been able to do in Alabama during the past year may have some valuable results for the future in that vicinity. I refer to the study which was made of the economic situation of Negroes in selected Alabama communities. An interracial conference in that state in May called to consider the findings of this study, was attended by influential leaders of both races, and we know that this has done something to direct public opinion to the crucial question of economic justice for the Negro in that area. It seems to us that improvement of social and economic conditions is basic in the whole effort to secure justice for Negroes in legal and other respects.

"If there are further steps which you think would be of help at this time, I should be glad to have you write me more fully."

SCOTTSBORO JUDGES ASK RE-ELECTION

Times

Callahan, Who Imposed Death, and Horton, Who Upset Verdict, Will Run.

1-14-34

FORMER EXPECTED TO WIN

New York, N.Y.

Latter, However, Probably Will Be Defeated Although 'Home Folks' Like Him.

By JOHN TEMPLE GRAVES 2d.

Editorial Correspondence, THE NEW YORK TIMES.

BIRMINGHAM, Ala., Jan. 10.—The three Alabamians who have been most conspicuous in the conduct of the Scottsboro trials at Decatur will be among the candidates for office in the State Democratic primaries next May. While each has a general record to offer or to be examined, the part each has played in this famous case is sure to bear importantly upon his fate at the polls. Two of these Alabamians—Circuit Judge W. W. Callahan and Attorney General Thomas E Knight—undoubtedly will profit from the fact that the one presided and imposed a death sentence in the second Decatur trial and that the other conducted the prosecution in both trials. Whether or no the third one, Circuit Judge James E. Horton, will suffer from the fact that he refused to accept a jury's verdict of guilty in the trial over which he presided last Spring and ordered a new trial, is a moot question throughout the State.

As a candidate for Lieutenant Governor, Attorney General Knight has no opposition thus far, although State Representative Earl McGowin, a wealthy young man whose intelligent legislative record has won him considerable repute, is being urged as a possible opponent. Mr. Knight's conduct in the Scottsboro case is certain to weigh decisively for him with the Alabamians who have came to look upon him as their State's knight templar against Communists, Negroes and New York lawyers. Since a great many other Alabamians who are critical of the Scottsboro jury decisions feel, nevertheless, that the Attorney General played his official part fairly and ably, and since his general record in office has had little or no criticism, his nomination and election seem to be assured at this writing.

Changes His Mind.

Judge Horton, whose formal announcement was made on Monday, has two opponents already. One is State Representative F. E. St. John, an attorney, whom The Birmingham Post describes as a "veteran tool of reactionary interests." The other is former Judge Osceola Kyle, one-time member of the State Railroad Commission, who was defeated by Judge Callahan in the last election. Judge Horton's decision to make the race reverses an earlier decision on his part to retire from the bench because of popular disapproval of his attitude in the Scottsboro case. The reversal came about as a result, apparently, of resolutions adopted unanimously by the bar association of Athens, his home. The resolutions urge him to stand for another term and endorse him as "a judge of unimpeachable character and integrity * * * untrammeled by political considerations * * * unflinching in the discharge of your duties as a judge."

Published last week all over Alabama, these resolutions have been taken by a considerable sector of the press as signal for a somewhat surprising chorus of editorial praise for Judge Horton and hope for his re-election. The Huntsville Times, The Limestone Democrat, The Houston Herald, The Selma Times-Journal and others have joined The Birmingham Age-Herald and The Birmingham Post in suggesting that the real issue in Judge Horton's case is not his decisions at Decatur, but the courage and conscience he showed in making them. Whether the voters of his district, most of whom probably disapprove the decisions, will be willing to make such a distinction in his favor, remains to be seen.

Such an inclination comes in part of their feeling that Judge Horton is their own good man, no matter how foreign the occasions [illegible] may his conscience [illegible]p. They feel it because he himself feels it. He has little or no thought for the liberal and other groups which acclaim him from a distance. He does the right thing as he sees it, with no particular sense of the scene about him, but with an enormous sense of right-doing ancestors gone and example-bound descendants to come. His "social conscience" is vertical rather than horizontal. Justice for him is still the simple principle he learned at the knee of a mother who taught him, he will tell you, the old Roman precept he has never yet forgot—"fiat justitia, ruat coelum (Let there be justice though the heavens fall). He wants justice done even though the political heavens fall upon him. He wants it because his mother taught him to want it. Such a man is hard for liberals to lionize, but easy for homefolks to forgive.

THE ADMIRABLE POSITION TAKEN BY F. E. ST. JOHN

Advertiser
1-13-34
Montgomery Ala.

F. E. St. John, of Cullman, a member of the Legislature, has withdrawn as a candidate for the judgeship in the Eighth Judicial Circuit now held by Judge James E. Horton of Athens, and has issued the following statement in explanation of his retirement from the race:

"In order to conduct this campaign it seems it will be necessary to capitalize on a judicial decision by a judicial officer in whose honesty and integrity I have the utmost confidence. Such a campaign is distasteful to me, and I do not desire to make the campaign on any such issue."

The judicial decision referred to, of course, is the one which Judge Horton handed down granting a new trial to Heywood Patterson, one of the defendants in the Scottsboro case. The decision met with some dissatisfaction in the Eighth Judicial Circuit, and an effort is being made to defeat Judge Horton on that account by those who have a false conception of a judge's function and who because of their prejudices would penalize judicial honesty, courage and integrity, the very qualities which are most to be desired in an occupant of the bench.

Mr. St. John will have no part in a campaign based upon such an issue. It is a high-minded position he has taken, and his statement must command the admiration of every Alaamian who honors and values the judicial qualities which Judge Horton has exemplified, regardless of personal opinions on the case in question. Mr. St. John's action is one of the finest things that has taken place in Alabama politics in a long time. It definitely raises the political standards of his state. His is an example to be commended.

On account of the dissatisfaction which was expressed at his decision, Judge Horton contemplated retiring from the bench. But happily he was prevailed on to reconsider, when the members of the bar of Athens, his home, unanimously adopted a resolution praising him for his integrity and urging him to stand for reelection.

The resolution of the Athens bar was applauded throughout the state. Unquestionably it had its effect on the people of the Eighth Judicial Circuit. Mr. St. John's admirable statement may be expected to have no less an effect. Fair-minded citizens of the Eighth Judicial Circuit surely will not be misled into defeating a judge so able, so honest and so courageous as Judge Horton because he handed down a decision which happened not to be popular. His defeat on such grounds would be in the nature of a tragedy, and a standing reproach to Alabama.
—The Birmingham News.

MINERS TAKE HAND IN SCOTTSBORO CASE

Advertiser

Release Of Nine Urged In Many Resolutions At National Convention

Montgomery, Ala

INDIANAPOLIS, IND., Jan. 28.—(AP)—Freedom for Thomas Mooney and Warren Billings, and for the nine negroes involved in the Scottsboro, Ala., case, is demanded in numerous resolutions awaiting considerations by the United Mine Workers convention which resumes its sessions here tomorrow. 1-29-34

A resolution submitted by a Creighton, Penn., local union is typical. It reads; "the bosses, court and governor of California are still holding Tom Mooney and Warren Billings in jail in spite of their proven innocence for almost 17 years. x x The nine Scottsboro boys have been proven innocent beyond any doubt and yet two of them sentenced to death and others facing death. x x x x"

The resolution asks the committee to demand the immediate release of Mooney, Billings and the "Scottsboro boys."

Inasmuch as so many resolutions have been submitted on this subject, the resolution committee probably will offer a substitute to the convention.

Another proposed resolution attracting some interest recommends that President John L. Lewis and other union officials petition Congress for a Federal tax on natural gas, fuel, oil and electricity generated by gas, oil and water power.

C. B. Huntress, executive secretary of the national coal operators association, in addressing the convention Friday, warned that competing fuels, particularly water power, menace the coal industry.

William Green, president of the American Federation of Labor, will address the miners Monday morning. Miss Frances Perkins, secretary of labor and Mrs. Virginia E. Jenckes, representative in Congress from the sixth Indiana district, will speak at Tuesday's session.

The union is expected to renew its contention for a 30-hour week, instead of the present code provision for an eight-hour day and a five-day week. In the matter of wages the convention probably will leave the details in the hands of the scale committee and the international officers to "make the best possible contracts."

Chattanooga Tenn News
January 22, 1934

A Fine Withdrawal

JUDGE James E. Horton, of Athens, Ala., presided over one of the trials of Heywood Patterson, one of the defendants in the Scottsboro cases. He granted the motion of Patterson's attorneys for a new trial of the case. His conduct while sitting upon this case reflected the greatest credit upon the Judge and his State.

This year Judge Horton is confronted with a race for reelection, and is a candidate to succeed himself. Some in his district resented the fairness with which he conducted the Negro's trial, and there have been rumors that an effort would be made to repudiate this Judge who gave the Negroes a square deal.

Judge Horton had opponents for his own Democratic renomination for the bench, one of whom was Mr. F. E. St. John, of Cullman, a member of the Alabama Legislature. Mr. St. John soon found that, to defeat Judge Horton, he would be forced to capitalize the Scottsboro hates. Thereupon he made a statement.

"In order to conduct this campaign," he announced, "it seems it will be necessary to capitalize on the judicial decision rendered by a judicial officer in whose honesty and integrity I have the utmost confidence. Such a campaign is distasteful to me, and I do not desire to make the campaign on any such issue." So saying, Mr. St. John formally withdrew from the race.

This is a decision which does credit to Mr. St. John and to his State. Indeed, it is one of the finest actions we have noted in Southern politics for many years. We hope sincerely that Judge Horton will be reelected. His conduct in the Patterson case has reflected the highest credit upon him in the case which has so much of the discreditable to be explained. His defeat would be a reproach to Alabama and to the South.

Savannah, Ga., News
January 20, 1934

T28

Scottsboro Aftermath.

Philadelphia Record: Twenty-five years ago there was one sure way to commit political suicide in the South.

To take the side of a negro against a white woman in a nationally agitated case would have invited not only political extinction, but social ostracism.

Apparently Judge James E. Horton of Alabama thought he was scotching his chances of remaining on the bench when he gave the Scottsboro negroes a new trial after the gross improprieties committed by prosecuting attorneys in the courtroom.

He announced he would not run for reelection this May. But, oddly enough, a chorus of praise for Judge Horton went up throughout the state. The bar association of his home county begged him to seek reelection. The Birmingham Age-Herald, the Birmingham Post, the Huntsville Times, the Limestone Democrat, the Houston Journal, the Selma Times-Journal and other papers have all lauded his character and his record on the bench.

Judge Horton consequently has decided to run. Also candidates in May will be Judge W. W. Callahan, who presided at the last trial of the Scottsboro case, and Attorney General Thomas E. Knight, the chief prosecutor.

Artists to Support Scottsboro Benefit

Stars of Stage, Screen, Radio and Night Club to Help Raise Funds for Nine Youths

Harlem has not seen a more distinguished list of entertainers nor a better cross-section of the life of the city than will be seen at the Scottsboro benefit ball Friday night at the Savoy, Lenox avenue at 140th street, the National Committee for the Defense of Political Prisoners, sponsor of the dance, announced yesterday. East side, west side, Park avenue, the Bronx, Broadway and a large part of Harlem are expected to be there.

2-14-34

The entertainers announced for the ball are Harpo Marx of the Four Marx Brothers; Helen Morgan, queen of "Show Boat" and darling of the night clubs; Buck and Bubbles, who need no introduction to Harlem; Bessie Smith, most authentic of blues singers; Fred Keating, delightful and beguiling magician; Mildred Bailey, radio star; and Alexander Kirkland of "Men in White." Added thereto are Fletcher Henderson and orchestra and Bennie Carter and his boys.

Heywood Broun, as master of ceremonies, is to be a great feature of the evening. In the course of introducing the artists he will display not only his engaging personality but his great and genuine interest in the Scottsboro case. "The fight to save the lives of the boys must go on," he said. "In fighting for these boys you fight not alone for them but for all victims of political and economic oppression."

Among those who have taken boxes for the affair are Marc Connelly, author of "Green Pastures"; Sinclair Lewis, Nobel prize winner; Charles MacArthur, author of "The Front Page"; Miss Ruth Hale, Arthur G field Hays, John Henry Hamm Jr., and John H. Farrar, publish

Among those who have manifested their interest by taking tickets for themselves and parties of friends are Lewis Gannett, Irita Van Doren, Dorothy Parker, Susan Glaspell, Margaret Wycherly, Anthony Brown, Selma Robinson and many other literary people. The list of sponsors for the ball are Marc Connelly, Countee Cullen, Michael Gold, Ruth Hale, Elmer Rice, W. C. Handy, John Henry Hammond, Jr., Arthur Garfield Hays, Sidney Howard, Rose McClendon, Dorothy Parker, William L. Patterson and Art Young. Samuel Leibowitz, the lawyer for the defense, has promised to come to the ball if he is in town on that day.

The ball is under the auspices of the National Committee for the Defense of Political Prisoners, and tickets may be obtained from them at 156

Lynchings-1934
Legal Punishment for Rape.

Alabama

4668

4668

Anna Damon Stresses Need of Scottsboro Fund

Daily Worker

Urges Intensified Collection to Meet Burden of Expense of Legal Steps Necessary in the Appeal

12-18-34

A call to all those who are well-wishers of the Scottsboro boys, to all organizations and individuals who are opposed to fascist lynch terror, to intensify their activity to force the United States Supreme Court to review the cases of Haywood Patterson and Clarence Norris, now before that court, and to reverse the lynch verdict of death against them, was issued yesterday by the National Executive Committee of the International Labor Defense.

A decision by the court on the application of the I. L. D., through its attorneys, Osmond K. Fraenkel and Walter Pollak, for writ of certiorari in these cases is expected momentarily.

At the same time, the I. L. D. through Anna Damon, acting national secretary, called for the immediate and intensified collection of funds in its $6,000 drive to meet the tremendous burden of expense of the legal steps necessary in the appeal, and the vital mass campaign for the boys' release.

Already more than $64,000—a sum $2,500 greater than has been collected—has been expended in the three and a half years of this campaign, of which 62½ per cent was spent on purely legal expenses, 12.3 per cent on the mass campaign, and 24 per cent on administrative expense. This last figure, it has been pointed out, is in striking contrast to the 71.5 per cent which, it has been revealed, the Red Cross spends on overhead from its collections.

In making this appeal for funds, the I. L. D. made public a statement of Mrs. Ida Norris and Mrs. Janie Patterson, mothers of the condemned boys, giving the I. L. D. sole authority to collect funds for their boys' defense, and appealing to all well-wishers of the boys to contribute to the fund.

New York

The mothers' statement, in legal form, follows:

STATE OF NEW YORK :
COUNTY OF NEW YORK : ss.:
CITY OF NEW YORK :

"IDA NORRIS and JANIE PATTERSON, being each duly sworn, say:

"'We are the mothers of Clarence Norris and Haywood Patterson, respectively, now in Kilby Prison under sentence of death in the Scottsboro cases. In these two cases the International Labor Defense, through its attorneys, Walter H. Pollak and Osmond K. Fraenkel, have obtained a stay of the execution of our boys from December 7th to February 8th, and have also filed petitions and briefs for the review of the convictions and death sentences in the United States Supreme Court. No other organization nor any other attorneys have taken any legal steps whatsoever for the protection of the lives of our boys or for their legal defense, and consequently no other organization or attorneys have been put to any expense in defending our boys against the death sentences imposed.

"The necessity for funds to cover the application for review by the United States Supreme Court is great and immediate, and we urge all persons who are well wishers of the Scottsboro boys to send contributions immediately to the International Labor Defense to pay the expenses in fighting for the lives of our innocent sons.

"(Signed) IDA NORRIS
"(Signed) JANIE PATTERSON
"Sworn to before me this 3rd day of December, 1934.
"(Signed) FAY SIEGARTEL
"Seal and Stamp, Notory Public."

All funds for Scottsboro-Herndon defense should be rushed by telegraph, air mail and special delivery to the national office of the International Labor Defense, Room 610, 80 East 11th Street. New York City.

Scottsboro Cases Cost $64,351 Up to August 31

Afro-American
12-22-34
Baltimore, Md.

NEW YORK—A financial statement showing a total income of $61,825.23, and a total expenditure of $64,351.75 on the Scottsboro case over the forty-month period from April 11, 1931 to August 31, 1934 was made public by the International Labor Defense last week.

The statement showed an expenditure of $38,181.05, or 62.1 per cent of the total income, on strictly legal expenses in connection with the case. This figure covers lawyers fees and expenses, investigations, printing and court records, and expenses connected with the three Scottsboro trials, two appeals to the State Supreme Court, one complete appeal to the U.S. Supreme Court and partial expenses for the present appeal, and numerous motions and habeas corpus proceedings in the nine cases.

The report folows:

SCOTTSBORO INCOME AND EXPENDITURES FOR THE PERIOD OF APRIL 11, 1931 TO AUGUST 31, 1934.

Income	
Through I.L.D.	$47,235.66
N. A. A. C. P.	3,482.20
A. C. L. U.	2,713.05
N. C. D. P. P.	8,394.32
Total Income	$61,825.23
Expenditures	
Legal, Court, Investigation, and Varions Litigation Expenses:	
Various Decatur trials; paid by I.L.D., $1,644.50; paid by lawyers $1,325.65; total	$ 2,970.15
Investigations: I.L.D., $4,323.35; lawyers, $5,197.84	9,521.19
Stenographic fees for trial reports: I.L.D., $259.76; lawyers, $645.24; total	905.00
Protection payments, lawyers, $861; total	861.00
Cost of court records and printing of appeals; I.L.D., $1,942.70; lawyers, $2,451.10; total	4,393.80
Preparation 1934 appeals (June-August); I.L.D., $1,150; total	1,150.00
Paid to attorneys for taxis, telegrams, telephones, during trials	1,007.30
Hotel expenses, railroad fare and various other expenses for lawyers and witneses; I.L.D., $2,050.28; lawyers, $2,294.97; total	4,345.25
294.97; total	4,345.25
Payments to Lawyers:	
Fees and general expenses	$13,027.36
Total legal, court investigation, etc.	$38,181.05
Other Scottsboro Exenses:	
Prisoners' and parents' relief	$ 3,156.40
Parents' fare to Kilby	237.06
Mothers' fares	240.12
Total	$3,633.52
Mass Campaigns:	
Mats and photos	$ 295.03
Buttons and penny stamps	732.21
Mailing and advertising	819.46
Richard B. Moore Tour	173.28
Lucille Wright Tour	311.20
Engdahl-Wright Tour	231.68
Convention	60.00
Org. and traveling expenses	1,371.64
Scottsboro march to Washington	1,403.59
Labor Defender—Advertising	100.00
Petitions	51.16
Publicity and publications	2,121.11
Total	$7,670.36
Administrative:	
Telephone and telegrams	$ 1,858.01
Rent	523.35
Southern office	926.57
Wages and subsidies	3,492.81
Stationery and printing	3,112.29
Postage	2,869.37
Miscellaneous	2,084.42
Total	$14,866.82
Total Expenditures	$64,351.75
Due from Scottsboro Campaign	$2,526.52

PARDON THE SCOTTSBORO BOYS

Defender
12-29-34
Chicago, Ill.

The finer sensibilities as well as the highest human instincts should prompt the governor of Alabama and the citizens thereof to abandon those political advantages which may have accrued to office seekers and others as a result of four years of travesty upon justice through the continual tragedy known as the Scottsboro case.

The governor, the judges who have tried the cases in the lower court, as well as the prosecuting attorneys, all know that the Scottsboro trial is tainted with fraud and perjury; they know that the evidence upon which the prosecution was and is being built, had its birth in hate and prejudice. They further know that justice and decency have played a small part in the different trials.

"It is common information that both the court and jury by which the cases were tried were surrounded by a mob psychology which determined in a large measure both the consideration and the decision. Knowing these things it is the duty of the governor of the state, in order to maintain the respect and confidence of other civilized communities, to pardon these innocent boys and remove this sordid stain from the history of the state.

The Scottsboro case, its manner and method of conduct, have been the direct cause of an increasing growth, not only of disrespect for law and order but radicalism and communism have found this particular case a fruitful subject for the perpetuation of their plans and purposes. It would appear that the better thinking people of Alabama would realize that this travesty upon justice is in a large measure brutalizing the social instincts of the youth of their state.

SCOTTSBORO RULING WILL BE MADE JAN. 7

Supreme Court Also To Pass On Tom Mooney's Appeal At An Early Date

Advertiser
12-21-34
Montgomery, Ala.

WASHINGTON, Dec. 20.—(AP)—Principals in two of America's most famous criminal cases will learn early in the new year whether the Supreme Court will take up their pleas for an escape from prison in one case and death in another.

The attorney general of California, U. S. Webb, today filed with the court his opposition to Thomas J. Mooney's effort to file habeas corpus proceedings before the highest tribunal in an effort to gain his freedom.

Thomas E. Knight, Jr., attorney general of Alabama, also presented the opposition of his State to a review sought by Clarence Norris and Haywood Patterson, negroes held in the famous Scottsboro case.

The court probably will announce Jan. 7 whether it will review the death sentence imposed on Norris and Patterson on charges of assaulting a white woman near Scottsboro, Ala.

The condemned men claim they were deprived of their constitutional rights because men of their own race were not allowed to serve on the jury.

Mooney, serving a life term on conviction of participating in a San Francisco bombing, argued that he was convicted on perjured evidence.

The California attorney general asserted the prisoner's only avenue of relief was through passage of new laws to permit reopening the case of a pardon by the California governor.

Webb's brief will now be placed before the court until January 7 and the tribunal probably will announce whether it will allow him to present his case on succeeding Monday.

Ben Gold Calls for Support Of Scottsboro Defense Fund

By Ben Gold

The fight to save the Scottsboro boys from death at the hands of the Southern lynchers, the fight to save brave Angelo Herndon from death on the chain gang of Georgia, is the direct concern of the entire working class and of the great majority of the population of the United States which feels in one form or another the oppression of an exploiting capitalist minority.

Haywood Patterson and Clarence Norris are threatened with death in the electric chair. The date set by the lynchers is Feb. 8. The decision of the Supreme Court of the United States as to whether it will hear the appeal may be handed down within a few days.

The decision on the living death facing Angelo Herndon is aso before the Supreme Court of the United States.

Decision Rests With Masses

But the final decision rests with the masses. Only through mass action will the Scottsboro boys be taken out of the clutches of the Southern bosses. Only mass pressure will free Angelo Herndon from the sentence of 20 years on the chain gang.

The fight is now in its most crucial phase. The masses must use [illegible] available resource at this present moment to insure victory.

The International Labor Defense which has conducted so energetically a campaign of mass action, utilizing every possibility of legal tactics at the same time, which has saved the lives of the Scottsboro boys for so many years, which has snatched Angelo Herndon for a brief time out of the Southern hell, must be backed up now with every available resource of the masses. With mass pressure. And with funds.

Funds Needed

Funds are sorely needed. It is unthinkable that at this time the working class and their sympathizers will allow any obstacle to be put in the way of a fight so gloriously conducted up to now.

The International Labor Defense must have $6,000 immediately for the Scottsboro-Herndon Defense Fund. I am confident that the working class, employed and unemployed, and especially those organized in the unions, and all the masses of the people, will answer the call with the speed which the present critical moment makes so urgent.

Send funds at once to the Scottsboro-Herndon Defense Fund, International Labor Defense, Room 61

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30 East 11th Street, New York City.
New York Evening Post
DEC 26 1934

Legal Trickery Hides Drama at Scottsboro

John Howard Lawson Says Issue Before Court Now Is Technicality, Having Nothing to Do With Guilt or Innocence

By JOHN HOWARD LAWSON

The author of this article, a well known Broadway playwright, has recently made an investigation, in the South, of the ramifications of the "Scottsboro case."—Editor's note.

Attorney General Thomas E. Knight of Alabama has just made the latest move in the complicated legal battle being waged around the lives of the nine Scottsboro boys.

In briefs filed in Washington, Attorney General Knight denies the jurisdiction of the United States Supreme Court to review the conviction of Haywood Patterson, sentenced to die on February 8, 1935. This paves the way for the Supreme Court to act when it resumed deliberations on January 7.

The issue now before the court is a technicality, having no remote connection with the guilt or innocence of the defendent. But behind the dry phraseology of the lawyers there is a dramatic series of charges and counter-charges, a sensational battle high-lighted by accusations of duplicity, bribery and kidnaping.

This is due to the tremendous social significance of the case. In the South, Scottsboro has become the symbol of Negro struggle against feudalism, inequality and industrial slavery. Workers of all races have joined in this struggle. Thus the matter has become both a national and an international problem.

Widespread Protests

No case (not even that of Sacco and Vanzetti), has awakened such widespread protest as this fight for the lives of nine Negroes who were pulled off a freight train on March 2, 1931, and charged with the rape of two white girls. While the Supreme Court argues about a writ of certiorari, mass demonstrations are being carried on in a dozen countries. The attempt to suppress these demonstrations has resulted in riots and deaths.

This tremendous pressure of opinion has been built up by the International Labor Defense, a radical working-class organization on the basis that the rights of Negroes and of all oppressed peoples are involved in the fight for the Scottsboro defendants.

The legal struggle has been long and bitter. The I. L. D. claims that every trick and subterfuge has been used to interfere with the defense. Attorney General Knight now denies that the Supreme Court has any right to consider Paterson's case, because (according to Knight) the motion for a new trial was filed too late (it was filed on December 29, 1933).

Legal Hair-Splitting

The lawyers for the prisoner point out that at the time of Patterson's third conviction (December 1, 1933) Judge Callahan was very clear in telling the defense that December 29 was sufficient time for filing the motion. The judge's remarks on this point were reported in the press, including the New York Times and New York Herald-Tribune of December 2, 1933. The defense therefore accuses Judge Callahan of contradicting his own words spoken in open court and of conniving with the Attorney General to block the legal procedure.

Another piece of legal hair-splitting has developed around the date of delivery of the bill of exceptions. An airplane wreck played a big part in this incident. Fearing further trickery, the I. L. D. tried to deliver this voluminous thousand-page document several days before the time they believed legal for filing. For this purpose, a whole corps of lawyers and three printing plants worked day and night. The bill of exceptions was rushed to Birmingham by plane, but the plane crashed. The State of Alabama has now taken advantage of the delay of a few days which resulted, in another attempt to throw out the appeal.

Leibowitz Disputed

Dangerous confusion was recently introduced into the case by Samuel Leibowitz, chief counsel in the previous trials; Leibowitz tried to take the Supreme Court appeal into his own hands, launching a virulent attack on the I. L. D. and claiming that the boys had repudiated the defense organization. This attempt was promptly checkmated by the prisoners themselves: Haywood Patterson wrote from Kilby prison that "Mr. Leibowitz is making a great mistake; really he must be trying to deceive the wonderful I. L. D. or be just having a dream that signed such papers."

The I. L. D. charges that Leibowitz co-operated with reactionary elements in Alabama to force the boys to disavow the I. L. D.; that their "immediate release" was promised if they did what was asked of them and that they were brutally beaten and mistreated when they refused. Leibowitz seems to have failed in his attempt to gain control of the case; the appeal is being handled by the I. L. D. lawyers, Walter H. Pollak and Osmond K. Fraenkel.

Another dramatic incident took place last October, when two lawyers, Daniel Swift and Sol Kone, were kidnaped in Chattanooga, Tenn., and dragged across the Alabama border. The kidnapers disregarded a Federal writ of habeas corpus which had been obtained to protect the two men, tore up the writ and threw the pieces from the window of their car.

Two Attorneys Kidnaped

In Huntsville, Ala., Swift and Kone were held on an unbelievably flimsy charge of attempting to bribe Victoria Price in Chattanooga. The prosecution rests entirely on the testimony of Victoria Price. The other victim of the alleged "rape," Ruby Bates, has already testified that the charge was a lie, and that neither she nor the Price girl had any association with the Negro boys. This explains the crucial importance of Victoria Price and the plainly illegal kidnaping of lawyers who were in contact with her.

In answer to charges made by Leibowitz that money raised for Scottsboro was used for other purposes, the I. L. L. has just issued a certified account of income and expenditures from April 11, 1931, to August 31, 1934. Total income has been $61,825.23, of which 62.1 per cent has been used for itemized legal expenses; 5.1 per cent went to relief for the prisoners and their families. The mass campaign (speaking tours, organization, publicity, etc.) involved 12.3 per cent, while administrative expense amounted to 24.0 per cent. The I. L. D. states that there have been practically no large contributions, the nickels and dimes of workers having accounted for practically the whole sum collected. The expenditures after forty months ran $2,526.52 above the receipts.

At present, while the Supreme Court decision is awaited, mass protest is being developed and intensified. This is particularly true in Caribbean and Central American countries, where there is a strong feeling that the struggle for Negro rights parallels their own struggle against the financial overlordship of the United States.

Supreme Court Scored

The I. L. D. describes Scottsboro as a "legal lynching," claiming that such lynchings (under the disguise of due process of law) are more common and as brutal as lynching by rope and gun.

In response to a question in regard to the Supreme Court's attitude on the case, William L. Patterson, national secretary of the I. L. D., is emphatic in warning against any faith in the fairness of the court, saying that "No illusions of fairness and justice must be permitted for one moment." He charges that the Supreme Court is a servant of capitalism, that its record is a record of biased opinions and injustice to the working class. He calls it a court of "last illusions" where the lynch verdict will be confirmed unless the protest of millions of workers and sympathizers is loud enough to affect the decision.

It is, therefore, the I. L. D.'s policy to get the best legal aid obtainable but to reinforce the work of the lawyers by continual agitation meetings, petitions, mass protest. Whether or not one agrees with this policy, there can be no question of its success in the Scottsboro case. What began as an unimportant trial in a little Southern town has become an epic of class struggle, symbolizing the fight of the poor and the oppressed against slavery, injustice and lynch law

Alabama.

Lynchings-1934

Legal Punishment for Rape.

4669

Struggle for Negro Civil Rights Spurred by Scottsboro Case

When Samuel Leibowitz, formerly associated with the International Labor Defense in the Scottsboro Case, first made public announcement of his renegacy there was an immediate response from the southern ruling class. This response came in the form of a redoubled reign of terror against the Negro masses and labor organizations in the South.

Sensing what they believed to be a weakness or a split in the mass movement for the defense of the Scottsboro boys, K. K. K. bands and government forces of the Southern states set in a series of raids on the homes of militant Negro workers, acts of violence against the Negro beatings and killings, the most ferocious of which was the well advertised and publicly planned lynching at Marianna, Fla. The terror is still running wild in the vicinity of Marianna, while the threat of terror hangs low over the whole South.

Case Not Isolated From Broad Struggle

These acts by the southern ruling class serve to clarify two principal aspects of the Scottsboro Case which have not as yet been sufficiently appreciated. The Scottsboro case is not simply a dramatic incident of persecution, isolated from all other aspects of the oppression of the Negro people. It takes place within the same social environment which produces lynching, jim-crowism, terror, degradation and ostracism of the Negro masses. And secondly, arising from this fact, the Scottsboro Case, because of the mass movement it has aroused, is the pivot, the central point around which the whole struggle for Negro rights rages today. It is recognized as such by the ruling class and its responsible representatives. Thomas Knight, Jr., state prosecutor of the nine Scottsboro boys, rode to the office of Lieutenant-Governor of Alabama in the recent election on a frankly anti-Negro and anti-Communist issue. A number of southern governors were elected on a heavily weighted "white-superiority" platform. The resurgence of the K. K. K. and other terrorist organizations in the South is directed against those masses who, inspired by the Scottsboro mass fight and given a program by it, are struggling against mass evictions on the countryside, the relief cuts which have resulted in practically no relief, and other onslaughts upon the living conditions of white and Negro toilers. Needless to add, the Scottsboro Case has been the principal foundation for a growing rebellion of the Negro masses in the North as well.

Fight Against Lynching

If the fight for the release of the Scottsboro boys has not been sufficiently and quickly enough broadened to engulf larger masses in the struggle and to include other issues of civil rights, we have ourselves partly to blame. Everyone knows that at the present moment the Negro masses throughout the country are greatly aroused by the rapidly multiplying persecutions and attacks. The struggle against lynching and for civil rights is a most pressing issue with them. The recent picketing of the National Conference against Crime in Washington by Negro students and teachers, usually so reticent when it comes to public action of this kind, to demand action against lynching indicates how deeply all sections of the Negro masses are moved. It is on the basis of this vital interest that the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People together with a number of middle class and liberal organizations is carrying on a campaign for the Wagner - Costigan Anti - Lynching Bill, holding mass meetings, carrying on a petition drive, etc. Although the N. A. A. C. P. lost much of its prestige among the Negro masses because of its Uncle Tom role in the Scottsboro and Crawford Cases, it now stands good chances of regaining at least some of this prestige at the expense of the militant and revolutionary movement.

N. A. A. C. P. Reformism

This does not mean that the N. A. A. C. P. has lost its Uncle Tomism. The Anti-Lynching Bill it supports and attempts to get the masses to support is essentially a measure to "save the face" of the Roosevelt Administration, which despite all its beautiful promises, has not only done nothing to stop lynching but has intensified those conditions, such as the differential wage of the codes, which give rise to it. It is sufficient to point to two main conditions of the Wagner-Costigan Bill to show that in itself, other things being favorable (such as the willingness of the federal government to stop lynching), it is not and cannot serve as an anti-lynching weapon.

In the first place, the death penalty is only conditional: it sets the penalty for lynchers at from 20 years imprisonment to death, leaving it entirely to a jury in a southern state to decide which it **shall be, taking for granted, first, that the guilty are arrested and second that such a jury finds them guilty.)** In the second place, lynching is treated "by definition," not as a reality. The Bill says not a word about the conditions which give rise to lynching, nothing at all about the whole series of persecutions and discriminations which are of the same, although less violent, order as lynching.

But even more important is the whole manner in which the N. A. A. C. P. and other supporters of the Bill would have the masses believe that an anti-lynching bill can be enforced. The illusion is created and spread that by winning over a few congressmen and by holding a few conferences with church and liberal groups the Bill can be forced through a "New Deal" Congress and be put into life. With Roosevelt in such serious need for a liberal cloak with which to cover mass pauperization especially in the South and under the pressure of wide protest against such lynchings as at Marianna, there is some possibility of such a bill being passed by the next Congress. But this would simply be a gesture, another statute to be listed in the morgue with the Civil War amendments.

Methods of Anti-Lynch Bill

Whether an effective bill against lynching is passed and enforced depends primarily upon the manner in which it is forced upon a federal congress. If the passage of an effective bill comes as a result of a nation-wide mass movement in which the masses are fully aware of their own role in forcing it through, then there is a basis for its enforcement. For it comes as a result of mass pressure, organized and aware of the pitfalls of constitutional illusions and ready to demand and fight for its enforcement at the first opportunity. But this means rousing and organizing a mass movement, sweeping broad masses of both whites and Negroes into it. This is something neither Wagner, Costigan nor the N. A. A. C. P. desires.

It remains for us to do it. The already large Scottsboro defense movement is the starting point for such a campaign, for it is already aware of everything that has to be done and is already involved in a struggle for civil rights. We also have a bill, clear of the illusions which the N. A. A. C. P.-supported bill fosters. It is the Civil Rights Bill, a draft of which was already presented to President Roosevelt by the Scottsboro March to Washington after the first Decatur trial. As its name implies, this Bill presents clearly the connection between lynching and the general oppression of the Negro masses and raises all the social issues so keenly felt by the Negro masses today. It provides the death penalty for lynchers. It is the instrument around which the whole Negro people will rally **once it is properly presented and explained.**

Fight For Civil Rights

But we have not yet taken up this task with the energy it deserves. This is the present necessary task not only in connection with the Scottsboro case but also with regard to the fight for Negro rights. We stand in danger of tripping on the next step in extending the Negro liberation movement unless a broad mass campaign, having at its center the struggle for the Civil Rights Bill, is immediately set into motion.

As already shown in Cleveland where the City Council was forced to pass an anti - discrimination statute as the result of a movement initiated by the League of Struggle for Negro Rights and the I. L. D. after Mrs. Wright, one of the Scottsboro mothers, had been refused service in a local restaurant, immediate and local struggles for Negro rights can serve as the lever for developing a nation-wide mass campaign for the Civil Rights Bill. A strenuous struggle against discrimination in the unions should be the basis for involving trade unionists in the campaign. The Bill must be brought before trade union bodies, fraternal organizations, lodges, churches, etc., for official action. On the basis of local struggles and affiliations the force can be created which can bring about the passage of the Bill as the victory of the mass movement.

— Clevela

SHAMOKIN, PA.
NEWS DISPATCH

DEC 6 1934

Scottsboro Case To Be Discussed

One of Alleged Victims of Scottsboro Negroes to Speak Here.

The Scottsboro case, involving nine southern negroes, facing death sentences on the charge of criminally assaulting two white girls, will be discussed at a meeting to be held in the Workers' Hall, 716 North Shamokin street, at 7:30 this evening.

Ruby Bates, one of the alleged victims, now a star witness for the defendants who have an appeal pending before the Supreme court, will be the chief speaker at the meeting.

A field organizer of the International Labor Defense, who is accompanying Miss Bates, will speak on the Tom Mooney case.

LAFAYETTE, IND.
JOURNAL & COURIER

DEC 25 1934

ALABAMA'S JURY PLAN

Denials that evidence showed Negroes to be systematically excluded from Alabama juries where the Scottsboro attack cases were tried were made by Thomas E. Knight, jr., state attorney general, when he filed a brief in the Clarence Norris case in the supreme court at Washington recently.

Norris, one of the Negroes twice sentenced to death, is appealing again to the supreme court. He is one of nine Negroes charged with assaulting two white girls in a railroad gondola car March 25, 1931. The nine were tried and all except one sentenced to death.

On appeal to the Alabama supreme court the conviction was sustained as to seven. The supreme court of the United States, however, reversed this decision on the theory of inadequate representation by counsel.

New trials were held in another county, but the defendants demanded rejection of the indictment on the ground that Negroes were barred from the grand jury. The trial judge denied the motion, whereupon Clarence Norris, with others, was found guilty on Dec. 6, 1933. He appealed to the Alabama supreme court, which sustained the verdict.

Mr. Knight, in his brief, set forth that Alabama recognized the principle that conviction of a Negro by a jury from which Negroes were systematically excluded was "a denial of equal protection of the law," but he insisted that evidence failed to disclose such a condition.

"The jury commissioners will have to be branded as liars and presumptions will have to take precedence over positive statement of fact in order to reach the conclusion that Negroes were excluded from the jury rolls of Jackson county because of race or color," he contended.

There was, he said, "not one scintilla of evidence" to contradict statements by Morgan county commissioners that they did not bar Negroes because of race or color, and that on the other hand, they "did consider members of the Negro race" when preparing jury rolls.

Negro citizens throughout the country will watch with real concern for the finding of the U. S. supreme court as to the facts in connection with Alabama's system of jury selection.

Tuscaloosa, Ala., News
December 11, 1934

The 'Liberals And Scottsboro

THE "liberal" magazines are still engaged in the trial of the "Scottsboro case." Long ago they convicted the State of Alabama and condemned it. They are now trying the issue between various sets of lawyers, all foreigners, as to title to defend these "martyrs" before the supreme court of the United States.

The point stressed in the latest appeal is whether negroes were included in the panel from which the jury was drawn in the circuit court that tried some of these negroes in the circuit court of Alabama. This is now the objective of the "drive" in progress by the Northern "liberals" against the customs and policies of Southern states in regard to the negroes, and it is a drive of power unsuspected in the South. For example, "The Nation," New York (of counsel for the prosecution of Alabama), observing that Leibowitz, one of the numerous foreign lawyers who have defended the Scottsboro negroes, has received no money for his work, adds that "several hundred thousand dollars have been raised for propaganda" in the case.

The sum of the matter is that outsiders have resolved to demolish the State of Alabama and thrust it out of the case. Their effort is to obtain decision from the Federal Supreme Court that would revolutionize the trial of all cases in Southern states to which negroes are a party. They hope to tear down and reconstruct the Southern states' jury systems. Of all this most Southerners appear to be in drowsy ignorance.

The News and Courier has not tried the Scottsboro case. That is none of its business. It has no eager wish that these negroes be electrocuted. It is not concerned especially that any criminal not in South Carolina be punished if their States be of contrary opinion. The acquittal of Insull in Illinois is the affair of Illinois, and if New Jersey or New York exonerate Hauptmann, an alleged kidnaper and murderer, it will not be for us to rail against their juries. They are states, and it is their right to determine guilt or innocence or to array themselves as champions of the guilty if they choose.

These facts seem to be admitted in the Scottsboro case. Twenty or thirty negro hoboes were on a freight train in Alabama, and so were ten or fifteen white hoboes whom they drove from the train. Two white women of questionabhle reputation were left on the train, and it is charged that they were criminally assaulted. What is likely to befall two white women in such circumstances may be conjectured.

Except as to its bearing on their credibility the character of the women is wholly irrelevant. If they were the victims of force their assailants are as guilty as if they had been the best of women. If white women are to be protected against vicious negroes in the South it is as neessar yto punish assaults of low women as those of good women. If vicious negroes (or whites) be taught that they can assault one kind of woman and escape punishment, the protection of other women is seriously impaired.

The conspicuous fact is that the Sottsboro case has been and is confined to the courts of Alabama. These accused men whom the Northern liberals have adopted and fondle, whom they affectionately describe as "the boys," as if they were pet pickaninnies, have not been mobbed. No attempt has been made to mob them. The "liberals" have assiduously lynched for three years the courts and the State of Alabama. "Several hundred thousand dollars have been raised for propaganda."

And the South is asleep.—Charleston News and Courier.

Lynchings-1934

Legal Punishment for Rape.

Alabama.

4670

Head of Workers Order Urges Support for Scottsboro Fight As Measure of Self-Defense

Links Arrest of 8 in Atlanta With Frame-Up of Nine Boys

By R. Saltzman

(National Secretary, Jewish Section, International Workers Order)

Daily Worker

12-5-34

New York N.Y.

To all members and branches, to all city and district committees of the Jewish Section of the International Workers Order.

The Scottsboro campaign is our own campaign. The International Workers Order, in its Declaration of Principles, and in its daily activity, declares itself unequivocally for the unity of workers of all colors and nationalities and against the attempt of the bosses to keep the workers divided and weak on national or racial issues.

We recognize that in the Scottsboro case the Southern lynch-rulers are attempting to intimidate the Negro masses from joining and participating in militant organizations of the working class. The Southern bourbons have ever used these and similar methods whenever the Negro masses threatened to shake them but one bit in their thrones.

Meaning Clearer

With the recent arrest of eight Negro I. W. O. members in Atlanta the meaning of the Scottsboro frame-up becomes even clearer and more sharply outlined. The Southern ruling-class arrested these I. W. O. members in Atlanta because they are members of a militant working-class fraternal organization, thus breaking their bond of social and national subjection and becoming equal with their white brothers. This the white rulers fear more than anything else. When the working people of all colors and nationalities unite then nothing can stop them in their struggle.

This recent arrest, therefore, brought the Scottsboro issue even nearer to us.

Branches Urged to Aid

We call upon all our branches to aid activity in the campaign to save the nine Scottsboro boys. We call upon them to go among the various Jewish fraternal organizations and bring forward to them the issue of racial and national suppression. We call upon all our members to become a powerful and potent factor for the defense of these boys.

Above all funds are needed. Rush funds at once to the International Labor Defense, Room 610, 80 East 11th Street, New York City, the only organization that is staunchly and honestly defending the nine boys and deal a death-blow to the traitorous and shameful dealings of Leibowitz and his clique.

The Scottsboro boys must be saved.

LOUISVILLE, KY.
COURIER JOURNAL

OCT 18 1934

A SOUTHERNER WAS NEEDED

Impartial people all over the country have hoped that the nine Negro boys involved in the Scottsboro case could somehow win their way through to a fair trial from which all prejudice would be divorced. Ever since the Negroes were dragged from a train at Paint Rock, Ala., early in 1931, charged with attacking two white girl hoboes, the dark shadow of race hatred has lain across their destiny. Various appeals and other legal delays have kept the noose from around their necks up to this time, but now their case looks all but hopeless.

The new and unfortunate feature of the situation is the arrest of two Communist lawyers in Nashville on charges of trying to bribe the State's key witness, Victoria Price, one of the girls who allegedly was attacked by the Negroes. As the case has dragged its way through the courts, increasing doubt has been cast on the character of the Price woman and the value of her testimony under oath, but now her position is given new strength by the story of the bribery attempt and the Communist connections of the two New York attorneys, who were arrested.

In the trials of the Scottsboro boys, the prosecution's strongest weapon has been the native Alabama prejudice against Communism and Communists. Over and over again the jurymen, plain Southern farmers and small town tradesmen, have been told that the sovereign rights of Alabama were being invaded by Red agitators from New York. The defense, it is true, has been mainly in the hands of the International Labor Defense, an organization commonly associated with the Communist party, and that fact has been fatal to the interests of the Negroes on trial.

Samuel S. Leibowitz, New York lawyer, who is counsel for the Scottsboro boys, has slashed out now in denunciation of the International Labor Defense and the Communist party, but it is too late. Those who are thus denounced will probably say that unless they had stepped into the picture, the Negroes would have been left without any defense at all worthy of the name. It is unfortunate that at the start some courageous and able Southern lawyer did not take over the case. It might have been a difficult thing to do on the surface, but such a man might have won justice for the defendants and a name for himself by handling the defense in a fearless and forthright manner. Only a Southerner could have done it. When the New York lawyers and the Labor Defense came into the picture, the Scottsboro boys lost their best chance for freedom.

Schuyler Goes Haywire

Amsterdam News

(11-3-34)

New York, N.Y.

THE CURRENT ISSUE of the American Spectator features a discourse on the Scottsboro case by George S. Schuyler. Entitled "Sam Leibowitz: Jonah in Modern Dress," the article is as vicious and as unwarranted an attack on the conduct of the famous case as has appeared in any periodical in the country, including the openly prejudiced newspapers of the South. It is particularly vicious because it appears at a time when a drive is being made to secure funds to carry the fight to the United States Supreme Court.

Mr. Schuyler, whose connection with the publicity department of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People is too significant to be ignored in this instance, centers his attack on Samuel S. Leibowitz by name and the International Labor Defense by inference. He readily condemns the boys to death by mob or electrocution. He praises the "mob-minded cracker proletariat" for not having lynched the defendants already. And he brazenly contrasts the Scottsboro defense with that of George Crawford, who is now serving two consecutive life terms in Virginia for a crime of which he is believed innocent. The N. A. A. C. P. handled, or, as two of its most prominent white members charge, "mishandled," the Crawford case.

Mr. Schuyler's chief pique with Leibowitz seems to rest in the fact that the brilliant attorney tried to secure justice and freedom for his clients instead of "a long sentence, as is the Southern custom in order to save face"; that he fought the case like a man and on the evidence instead of trying to "build up good-will, respect and admiration, as Charles H. Houston, the Negro lawyer, did at the George Crawford trial," and that he exposed the whole rotten system of prejudice and oppression instead of proceeding "with skill and finesse, as is fitting on enemy soil." He objects to the I. L. D. ("the Communists") because they refused to allow the case to remain a local one and broadcast it throughout the civilized world.

The Amsterdam News and the Negro press probably erred in ignoring Mr. Schuyler for many years. Probably they should have dignified him with an editorial when he suddenly turned coat on the N. A. A. C. P. question—after his name had been placed on the association's payroll. Probably they should have pointed out that his "daring" expose of Liberian corruption came strangely at a time when the white imperialists were trying to discredit the admittedly corrupt Liberian officials. Time and time again they could have pointed out his contradictions, but refrained from dignifying him by doing so. But now the slapstick satirist has gone too far.

Mr. Schuyler was once a frequent contributor to the American Mercury. Since that periodical has advanced beyond the sallow scoffings of the writer's patron saint, H. L. Mencken, Mr. Schuyler has fallen on evil days. But the sacrifice of the Scottsboro case is too great a price to pay for the sale of a magazine article—no matter how high the rates of the American Spectator. In discussing Jonah in modern dress, Mr. Schuyler should not be allowed to forget that Uncle Tom, too, can change his clothing.

ALABAMA TACTICS IN SCOTTSBORO CASE ATTACKED IN APPEAL TAKEN TO THE U. S. SUPREME COURT ON BEHALF OF PATTERSON

Journal and Guide

By LOUIS R. LAUTIER

WASHINGTON, D. C.—A petition for a writ of certiorari to review the conviction and death sentence of Haywood Patterson in the Scottsboro case was presented to the Supreme Court of the United States last Saturday.

The petition in his behalf, like the one filed some weeks ago in the case of Clarence Norris, who is also under sentence of death for the same crime, asks the Supreme Court to set aside the findings of Alabama courts convicting of a criminal attack on Mrs. Victoria Price, white, on the ground that his constitutional rights were violated.

The Alabama courts, it is asserted, denied Patterson's constitutional rights in refusing to quash on account of the exclusio nof colored persons the indictment hv tha grand jury in Jackson county and the panel of the trial jury in Morgan county.

Grounds of Appeal

Incidental to these claims is the further contention that the trial court erred in excluding evidence offered by counsel for Patterson to prove the systematic exclusion of colored persons from jury duty on account of race or color.

The arguments made in the brief in support of Norris' application for a review of his conviction by the Supreme Court are adopted by counsel in the brief in support of Patterson's application. The only difference between the two cases is that in the Patterson case the bill of exceptions was stricken and in the Norris case it was not.

It is contended in behalf of Patterson that the claims of federal constitutional right were actually passed upon when the Alabama Supreme Court affirmed his conviction.

Journal and Guide

Defense Claims

"Motions challenging the composition of the jury, whether grand or petit," it is stated, "may be brought before the appellate court in any way that certifies to the accuracy of the record on these motions."

In support of this contention, reference is made to the Euel Lee case, in which the Maryland Court of Appeals reversed a judgment of conviction because of the exclusion of colored persons from jury duty and specifically overruled the contention that the issue should have been raised by bill of exceptions.

Norfolk Va

Say Alabama Tricked Defense

The charge is made that the state of Alabam, through its officials, judicial and executive, misled counsel for Patterson seeking to assert his constitutional rights.

It is pointed out that Judge Callahan, who presided at the last trial, and Attorney General Thomas E. Knight acquiesced in the declaration that Paterson had "thirty days in which to make a motion for a new trial," that is, until December 29 last, and subsequently continuances were twice granted.

"The attorney general did not move seasonably to strike the motion for new trial nor did he give the least intention that he regarded the motion as made too late,' 'the brief states. "On the contrary he waited until February 24 before making his motion to strike. Had he made his motion in time and had it been granted there would have been plenty of time to serve the bill of exceptions.

Attack Knights' Tactics

"Even after February 24th, when the motion for a new trial was stricken, the bill of exceptions would have been prepared and filed withing the 90-day period had not the defense once more been misled—this time by the motion of the attorney general fixing the date of judgment as December 6.

"Under the Alabama law the failure to file the bill of exceptions within the statutory time is not a jurisdictional defect. Unless there is affirmative action—unless a motion to strike is made—a bill, though filed late, must be entertained.

"The Attorney General was under no obligation to make the motion to strike. In view of the facts that this was a capital case, that the defense had been misled, that the circumstance had been called to his attention, the attorney general was under compelling obligation not to make the motion."

Case's Tangled History

Patterson was found guilty for the third time on December 1, 1933. Immediately after the verdict, Patterson's counsel requested an extension of time beyond 30 days within which to file a motion for a new trial, stating that the transcript of testimony was necessary in order to prepare a proper motion and that he had been informed by the stenographer that the transcript would not be ready in less than a month.

Judge Callahan refused an extension beyond 30 days, telling defense counsel in substance to apply to him for a continuance for additional 30-day periods, in order to file an amended motion based upon the transcript, after the motion for a new trial had been filed within the 30-day period.

The motion for a new trial was filed on December 29. The motion was continued to January 27, and after an interchange of letters, to February 24. The attorneys for the state did nothing until the latter date when they proposed the theory that the defendant did not have "30 days within which to make a motion for a new trial."

Knights' Action

Reciting that the judgment against Patterson had been rendered on December 6 at a term which ended by operation of law on December 23, Attorney General Knight moved to strike the motion for a new trial because it was not filed until after the expiration of the term. Judge Callahan granted the motion. An application for a rehearing was denied. Upo nappeal to the State Supreme Court the ruling striking out the motion for a new trial was affirmed.

Counsel for Patterson assert that had the motion for a new trial been entertained and denied on February 24, the time to file the bill of exceptions would have expired in May, 90 days later. With the motion for a new trial not entertained, the 90-day period for filing the bill of exceptions instead of expiring in May would run from the date of judgment and would expire on March 1 or March 6, depending on whether the judgment date is conceived to be December 1, the date of conviction, or December 6, the date of sentence. The bill of exceptions was presented on March 5.

Crucial Date

On the day of argument of the Alabama appeals in the Patterson and Norris cases, the attorney general moved to strike the bill of exceptions in the Patterson case on the ground that it was not filed until more than 90 days after the date of judgment. On this occasion the Attorney General declared the date of judgment to be December 1.

On June 28 the Alabama Supreme Court affirmed both convictions. In the Paterson case it upheld the striking of the motion for a new trial and the bill of exceptions.

Paterson is one of nine youths who are charged with attacking Victoria Price and Ruby Bates aboard a Southern Railway freight train in Jackson County, Alabama, December 25, 1931 after a fight with seven white boys.

Brief History of Case

He has had three trials and has been three times convicted. The first conviction was reversed in Novemerr, 1932, by the United States Supreme Court on the ground that he did not have the proper assistance of counsel in the first trial of his case. The second conviction was set aside by Judge James E. Horton, who presided over the second trial of March-April, 1933, on the ground that the conviction was against the weight of the evidence.

At that trial Miss Bates testified for the defense.

Counsel for the defendants is seeking a review of the third conviction.

The brief is signed by Walter H. Pollak and Osmond K. Fraenkel, who also filed the brief in behalf of Norris. They are International Labor Defense Attorneys.

NEW YORK—Dr. James Hardy Dillard, of Charlottesville, Va., was elected chairman of The American Scottsboro Committee, Inc., 289 Fourth Avenue, here on November 30. Dr. Dillard is widely known throughout the nation as former president of the Jeanes Foundation for the development of Negro rural schools, and president of the John F. Slater Fund, 1907-1931.

He is now vice-president of the Phelps-Stokes Fund; a member of the General Education Board, trustee of the General Theological Seminary, and formerly rector of the Williams and Mary College in Virginia. He is the author of two volumes in the educational field; the editor of several publications; and a contributor to newspapers and magazines.

In 1928 he was awarded the Harmon gold medal and 500 for promoting better relations between the races and for activity in increasing educational facilities for Negroes in the South. Dr. Dillard is widely known for his liberal views on educational and economic problems.

Other Officers

Other officers of The American Scottsboro Committee are: Dr. George E. Haynes, executive vice chairman; Dr. L. H. King, chairman, executive committee; Owen R. Lovejoy, recording secretary; Dr. J. W. Brown, treasurer; Olyve L. Jeter, assistant treasurer.

The committee also announced the acceptance of membership by an additional number of outstanding white and Negro citizens in different parts of the country among them the following: Dr. S. Parkes Cadman of Brooklyn, N. Y.; Dr. Henry Sloane Coffin, president, Union Theological Seminary, New York; Mrs. George Madden Martin, novelist, Louisville, Kentucky; Rev. Harold M. Kingsley, Chicago; Bishop L. W. Kyles, A. M. E. Zion Church; Fred B. Smith of the World Alliance for Friendship through the Churches; Atty. Norman H. McGhee, Cleveland, Ohio; Howard P. Drew, attorney, Hartford, Conn.; Rev David Rhys Williams of Rochester, N. Y.; and Dr. William Hiram Foulkes Old First Church, Newark, N. J.; Rabbi Alexander Lyons, Brooklyn, N. Y.; Mr. Morris Weinstein, New York.

This committee was organized after an estrangement developed between the International Labor Defense and Samuel Leibowitz, who defended the Scottsboro boys in their Decatur trials in 1933. Leibowitz claims the I. L. D. activities are now harmful to the boys, and that they are using funds raised for defense purposes for other purposes as well. He is the attorney now for the American Scottsboro Committee, which is seeking to represent the boys further.

Both the I. L. D. and the A. S. C have issued statements setting forth their authorization to represent the boys. So far, the current proceedings on appeal before the U. S. Supreme Court have been handled by I. L. D. attorneys.

ALA. JURY COLOR LINE IS DENIED BY KNIGHT

Constitution

12-11-34

WASHINGTON, Dec. 10—(AP)—Objections were filed by the state of Alabama today to a review by the supreme court of the case of Clarence Norris, negro youth condemned for an attack on a white girl in the "Scottsboro case."

Thomas E. Knight Jr., attorney-general of Alabama, submitted a formal brief for the state declaring there was no evidence negroes were "systematically and arbitrarily" excluded from the trial juries as contended by attorneys for Norris.

Atlanta Ga

The request for review, now before the court, said the negro was deprived of his constitutional rights by exclusion of negro jury members.

CHARLESTON, S. C

NEWS AND COURIER

DEC 18 [illegible]

Retirement of Alabama

The trial of the Scottsboro case by The Nation and The New Republic, New York, assisted by the "International Labor Defense," the Society for the Advancement of the Colored People, and other organizations, proceeds merrily. The Nation has withdrawn its saying that "several hundred thousand dollars" has been contributed for the defense of "the boys" ("the boys" are the negro hoboes accused of a heinous crime) and it now appears that only $60,000 or $70,000 has been sent in. The immediate and titanic question in the case is "Who are the attorneys for the boys' "?

The courts and the sovereign state of Alabama are the small fry and receive slight attention in the trial as it goes on in New York. As for "the boys" The New Republic and The Nation already have acquitted them.

Nothing in this is likely to disconcert the Alabamians. They seem content to surrender their sovereignty. They have succumbed to the federal government. They are looking for Mr. Harry Hopkins to support their schools and provision their teachers.

For Alabama the congressmen are getting everything that they can from Washington while the getting is good. If the spectacle of the federal government taking over most of the administration of Alabama does not preturb them, hardly would they resent the transfer of a negro case from Alabama to New York, Washington, or other foreign parts.

If they like and applaud the supreme court of the United States in decisions blotting out the State of Alabama, perhaps they would not complain if it should quietly and gradually deprive Alabama of the right that it has hitherto enjoyed of choosing its juries in its own way and of trying and punishing crimes by its own courts and officers.

Lynchings—1934
Legal Punishment for Rape.

Alabama.

4671

Dr. Dillard Chosen Head Of Commite

NEW YORK—James Hardy Dillard, D.Litt., LL.D., of Charlottesville, Va., was elected Chairman of The American Scottsboro Committee, Inc., 289 Fourth Avenue here November [illegible]. Dr. Dillard is widely known throughout the nation as former president of Jeanes Foundation for the development of Negro rural srhools and President of the John F. Slater Fund, 1907-1931. He is now Vire-President of the Phelps-Stokes Fund; a member of the General Education Board, Trustee of the General Theological Seminary and formerly Rector of the Williams and Mary College in Virginia. He is the author of two volumes in the educational field; the editor of several publications; and a contributor to newspapers and magazines. In 1928 he was awarded the Harmon gold medal and $500 for promoting better relations between the races and for activity in increasing educational facilities for Negroes in the South. Dr. Dillard is widely known for his liberal views on educational and economic problems.

Other officers of The American Scottsboro Committee are: Dr. George E. Haynes, Executive Vice-Chairman; Dr. L. H. King, Chairman Executive Committee; Owen R. Lovejoy, Recording Secy.; Dr. J. W. Brown, Treasurer; Olyve L. Jeter, Assistant Treasurer. The Committee also announced the acceptances of membership by an additional number of outstanding white and Negro citizens in different parts of the country among them the followng: Dr. S. Parkes Cadman of Brooklyn, New York; Dr. Henry Sloane Coffin, President of Union Theological Seminary, New York, Mrs. George Madden Martin, novelist, Louisville, Kentucky; Rev. Harold M. Kingsley, Chicago; Bishop L. W. Kyles, AME Zion Church; Mr. Fred B. Smith of the World Alliance for Friendship through the Churches; Atty. Norman H. McGhee, Cleveland, Ohio; Howard P. Drew, Attorney, Hartford, Conn.; Rev. David Rhys Williams of Rochester, N. Y.; and Dr. William Hiram Foulkes, Old First Church, Newark, N. J.; Rabbi Alexander Lyons, Brooklyn, N. Y.; Mr. Morris Weinstein, New York.

POLICE MOB I.L.D. RALLIES

Join With Hoodlums To Stop Scottsboro Meetings on Coast

LOS ANGELES, Calif., Dec. 24.—Five Scottsboro protest street meetings were smashed by police in one evening here last week. Police and gangs of hoodlums were mobilized at each of the five announced meeting places.

12-25-34

The Workers Laboratory Theatre corps, after five unsuccessful attempts to present the play, "Murder in Scottsboro" at the meeting places, finally led a parade with "Free Scottsboro Boys" and "Free Herndon" banners flying, down Central Avenue.

At 86th Street and Broadway, the workers grouped around the meeting prevented it from being smashed while the play was presented, and speeches made by speakers from the International Labor Defense and the Scottsboro Action Committee.

BELDEN, N. D., Dec. 24.—Letters urging the Farmers Union and the Holiday Association to join in the campaign to free the Scottsboro boys have been sent by Arvo Husa, state secretary of the United Farmers League of North Dakota, it was announced today.

The letters, addressed to the state secretaries of the two organizations, enclosed a copy of a call to action on the Scottsboro case which has been sent to all United Farmers League locals, with a request that similar letters be sent to all locals of the Farmers Union and the Holiday Association.

STATE'S ATTORNEY FILES ANSWERS IN SCOTTSBORO CASE

Washington, D. C.—(CNA)—With the filing of an answer last Thursday by the State of Alabama to the appeal of Heywood Patterson, all papers in the Scottsboro case were in the hands of the United States Supreme Court.

In a brief which answered none of the contentions of the defense, Attorney General Thomas E. Knight countered the claim of Patterson to a new trial.

The defense brief, filed by Osmond K. Fraenkel and Walter Pollak, attorneys employed by the International Labor Defense, raises the issues of the exclusion of Negroes from the jury, conspiracy between Knight and the trial judge, W. W. Callahan, to deprive the defendant of his appeal rights, prejudice by the judge, and other constitutional questions.

None of these contentions is taken up in Knight's answering brief. Knight simply challenges the right of the Supreme Court to act, on the ground that in Patterson's case the appeal papers to the state supreme court were filed too late. These papers were filed well within the time limit set by Judge Callahan himself who had granted an extension.

Patterson, with Clarence Norris, is sentenced to die February 8. Brief for Norris has already been filed, and likewise the answering brief in the Norris case has been filed by Knight, who claims that "Negroes are not barred from Alabama juries because of their race!"

Negro Poet Lauds ILD Fight To Save Scottsboro Youths

Cooperation of All Who Stand for Freedom for Negroes Urged by Langston Hughes

LOS ANGELES, Calif., Dec. 25.—Co-operation of all who stand for Negro freedom, in the fight to save the Scottsboro boys which is being led by the International Labor Defense, was called for in a statement issued today by Langston Hughes, Negro poet and novelist and president of the League of Struggle for Negro Rights.

12-26-34

Hughes' statement was in the form of an appeal to all genuine friends of the boys to lay aside all differences and throw the weight of their influence on the side of the Scottsboro defense, away from the disruption of its enemies, who have sought to scuttle it in what he termed the crucial moment of the long fight for their freedom.

"Legal defense is important, very important," Hughes said, "and we know that the I. L. D. is providing the best legal defense. But legal defense alone is not enough. We must support the fight with our protest and make public opinion felt to the highest court in the land.

"For three and a half years the International Labor Defense has been leading the fight for the innocent boys. Many of the members of the organization have served without any pay, working sixteen and eighteen hours a day for months at a time. But for their sacrifices, and those of the poor and underpaid workers, both white and Negro, who have given their last pennies in many cases, the boys would not be alive today.

"The International Labor Defense has backed up its campaign of education, rousing protest everywhere, with the best legal defense."

Funds to carry on this legal and mass campaign, to perfect and present the appeals before the U. S. Supreme Court, are urgently needed. Rush every cent possible at once by telegraph, airmail, special delivery, to the Scottsboro-Herndon Defense Fund of the International Labor Defense, Room 610, 80 East 11th Street, New York City.

Strong Unity On Scottsboro Case Is Urged

Call for United Front Is Sent to American Committee

NEW YORK — Citing the emergency need for immediate unity of all forces ready to work for the liberation of the Scottsboro boys, another call for united action was addressed to the American Scottsboro Committee, by the National Scottsboro-Herndon Action Committee.

The full statement follows:

American Scottsboro Committee,
289 Fourth Avenue,
New York City.

Gentlemen:

On November 24th, we addressed a letter to your Committee, proposing "that a conference be arranged during the week of November 26th at which representatives of the American Scottsboro Committee will meet with representatives of the National Scottsboro-Herndon Action Committee to discuss how steps can be taken to present a solid front in the fight for the unconditional freedom of the Scottsboro boys."

In reply we received your letter of December 3rd which stated, "Our Committee does not see the way clear for a conference at this time."

Most seriously, we must state that if ever there was a time when united action is imperative on the part of all true friends of the Scottsboro boys, of all who sincerely wish to win their freedom and to achieve justice in this momentous case which involves the rights, lives and liberties of the thirteen million bitterly oppressed Negro people and of all the masses of the people, white as well as black—that time is now!

Crucial Stage

Again we point to the crucial stage of the case, with the appeals once more pending before the U. S. Supreme Court—the lives of these nine innocent boys and all that they symbolize hanging desperately in the balance. Surely at such a crucial moment, it is clear that any division of the defense forces seriously imperils the lives of these boys and the vital issues involved, and objectively aids the forces of fascist lynch reaction which drive ruthlessly to the murder of these innocent boys.

Yet such division exists. And we are compelled by the very urgency of the situation which now menaces the lives of these boys, to call upon every member of your Committee seriously to consider the grave responsibility which you have assumed in this crucial and fateful situation.

Whatever thoughts may have been entertained of providing "a better defense," it is now clear that the activities, unsupported charges, and widespread propaganda of attorney Leibowitz, Dr. George E. Haynes, Mr. William H. Davis and certain others of your Committee, have had the result of creating the confusion and division which now exists to the injury of the defense, the peril of the boys, and the endangering of the vital issues involved.

Moreover, when your Committee refuses to meet with us to consider the means of achieving united action, you block the way towards overcoming this deadly division and establishing the united front of defense action which alone can save and free these innocent, tortured boys.

We must again request you to consider these important facts. The defense conducted by the International Labor Defense has kept these boys alive for over three and a half years, winning most important partial victories in the face of the most ruthless efforts to lynch these boys both legally and by open mob violence.

I.L.D. Saved Them

Haywood Patterson and Clarence Norris were saved from electrocution on December 7th by the I.L.D. which secured the stay of execution, through attorney Fraenkel, from the Alabama Supreme Court. The petitions and briefs in the appeals for these boys are now before the U. S. Supreme Court—filed by the outstanding constitutional lawyers, Osmond K. Fraenkel and Walter H. Pollak. Mr. Pollak successfully made the first appeal to the U. S. Supreme Court.

These are concrete achievements in the vital defense of the Scottsboro boys which prove that the I.L.D. is in full charge of the defense and is carrying it forward successfully. The decision of the conference of many important organizations, recently held in Washington under the auspices of the Civil Liberties Union, to "endorse and support the legal and mass defense of the I.L.D. in the Scottsboro case," along with other similar actions particularly in the South, show the growing realization of the imperative need for immediate united action.

We are, therefore, bound to urge again that your Committee will immediately remove the one serious hindrance in the way of this essential unity. This Committee (National Scottsboro-Herndon Action Committee, elected by numerous organizations, works solely for the broadest united action of all organizations and individuals, regardless of religious, political or any other differences, on the basis of uncompromising struggle for the "unconditional and safe release of the Scottsboro boys.

We urge that representatives of your Committee meet with representatives of this Committee as quickly as possible before the end of this week, to consider how this vital united defense action can be realized. We earnestly say that we are ready to do everything possible to achieve this necessary end.

We also request that Mrs. Ida Norris, mother of Clarence Norris and a representative of this Committee, be placed on the program ~~to speak at the benefit performance~~ to be held under the auspices of your Committee at Mecca Temple on December 30th.

The urgent necessity for funds, still needed to defray the casts of the appeals and other plans of the vital Scottsboro defense, compels us to call upon you to turn over to this Committee or the I.L.D. funds raised by your Committee for the defense of these boys.

Every moment counts with the lives of these innocent persecuted boys hanging in the balance! Now is the time for united action! Will you not join now in the united front—the only means whereby the Scottsboro boys can be freed?

Sincerely

SAMUEL C. PATTERSON

Secretary

WHITE AND NEGRO WORKERS PROTEST FRAME-UP OF BOYS

Mass Meetings in Pennsylvania and Delaware Pledge Support to I.L.D.—Civil Liberties Endorses Legal Defense Action

OXFORD, Miss., Dec. 21.—Smashing through the jim-crow edicts of the Mississippi white rulers, 150 Negro and white workers and croppers held a Scottsboro protest rally here and adopted a resolution protesting the frame-up of the boys and demanding their unconditional release. Representatives were present from the Communist Party, the International Labor Defense, the Share Croppers Union and the Young Communist League.

Rally in Washington

WILMINGTON, Del., Dec. 21.—Following up the signal victory of Wilmington workers in breaking through the police terror in this private State-domain of the Du-Pont munition interests by holding a successful Scottsboro demonstration here last month, the local branch of the International Labor Defense is arranging another Scottsboro rally for December 2[illegible] at 2 o'clock.

Daily Dec 23 '34

The meeting, which will be addressed by Mrs. Ada Wright, mother of two of the Scottsboro boys and Mother Bloor, will be [illegible] at the National Theatre, [illegible] French Street.

COATSVILLE, Pa., Dec. 21.—More than 300 persons, Negro and white, crowded into the Elks Auditorium here to welcome the Scottsboro Mother, Mrs. Ada Wright, and pledge support to the mass and legal fight, led by the International Labor Defense, for the lives and freedom of the nine innocent boys.

Civil Liberties Supports Defense

The American Civil Liberties Union has endorsed the legal defense of the Scottsboro boys by the International Labor Defense, it was announced yesterday by the national office of the ILD. The endorsement was made public by Roger Baldwin, director of the A. C. L. U., at the Washington Conference on Civil Liberties held last week under the auspices of the Union, and was greeted enthusiastically by most of the delegates in attendance.

The conference passed a resolution endorsing the mass and legal fight led by the I. L. D. for the release of the nine boys.

Lynchings - 1934
&
Legal Punishment for Rape.

Alabama

4672

MONTGOMERY, ALA.
ADVERTISER
DEC 3 1934

'Several Hundred Thousand Dollars'

The "liberal" magazines are still engaged n the trial of the "Scottsboro case." Long go they convicted the State of Alabama and ondemned it. They are now trying the issue etween various sets of lawyers, all foreigners, as to title to defend these "martyrs" befor the Supreme Court of the United States.

The point stressed in the latest appeal is whether negroes were included in the panel from which the jury was drawn in the circuit court that tried some of these negroes in the circuit court of Alabama. This is now the objective of the "drive" in progress by the Northern "liberals" against the customs and policies of Southern states in regard to the negroes, and it is a drive of power unsuspected in the South. For example, "The Nation," New York (of counsel for the prosecution of Alabama), observing that Leibowitz, one of the numerous foreign lawyers who have defended the Scottsboro negroes, has received no money for his work, adds that "several hundred thousand dollars have been raised for propaganda" in the case.

The sum of the matter is that outsiders have resolved to demolish the State of Alabama and thrust it out of the case. Their effort is to obtain a decision from the Federal Supreme Court that would revolutionize the trial of all cases in Southern states to which negroes are a party. They hope to tear down and reconstruct the Southern states' jury systems. Of all this most Southerners appear to be in drowsy ignorance.

The News and Courier has not tried the Scottsboro case. That is none of its business. It has no eager wish that these negroes be electrocuted, it is not concerned especially that any criminal not in South Carolina be punished if their States be of contrary opinion. The acquittal of Insull in Illinois is the affair of Illinois, and if New Jersey or New York exonerate Hauptmann, an alleged kidnaper and murderer, it will not be for us to rail against their juries. They are states, and it is their right to determine guilt or innocence or to array themselves as champions of the guilty if they choose.

These facts seem to be admitted in the Scottsboro case. Twenty or thirty negro hoboes were on a freight train in Alabama, and so were ten or fifteen white hoboes whom they drove from the train. Two white women of questionable reputation were left on the train, and it is charged that they were criminally assaulted. What is likely to befall two white women in such circumstances may be conjectured.

Except as to its bearing on their credibility the character of the women is wholly irrelevant. If they were the victims of force their assailants are as guilty as if they had been the best of women. If white women are to be protected against vicious negroes in the South it is as necessary to punish assailants of low women as those of good women. If vicious negroes (or whites) be taught that they can assault one kind of women and escape punishment, the protection of other women is seriously impaired.

The conspicuous fact is that the Scottsboro case has been and is confined to the courts of Alabama. These accused men whom the Northern liberals have adopted and fondle, whom they affectionately describe as "the boys," as if they were pet pickaninnies, have not been mobbed. No attempt has been made to mob them. The "liberals" have assiduously lynched for three years the courts and the State of Alabama. "Several hundred thousand dollars have been raised for propaganda."

And the South is asleep.—Charleston News and Courier.

The Scottsboro Case

The Nation has received a number of letters in response o its recent editorials on the Scottsboro case, some of them xpressing satisfaction with *The Nation's* point of view, others lisagreeing more or less violently. Lack of space prevents us rom publishing any considerable number of the letters, and it vas considered fairer to summarize certain of them than to use only a fraction of what we received. First, Osmond Fraenkel vrites concerning the telegram signed Clarence Norris received y Samuel Leibowitz on November 21, which declared that "Mr. Powell . . . I. L. D. attorney" had threatened him with oss of his stay of execution if he permitted Mr. Leibowitz to lefend him. Mr. Fraenkel declares that he has a denial from Mr. Powell that any such interview took place and a statement rom the prison warden that he was present at the meeting beween Powell and Norris and "did not understand Powell to ay I. L. D. would withdraw stay of execution." Mr. Fraenkel dds: "While it appears from the warden's telegram that Norris ctually sent the message which you quoted it does not appear ınder what circumstances he was induced to do so."

Alfred H. Hirsch, secretary of the National Committee for the Defense of Political Prisoners, sends a letter signed by himself, with forty-three additional typewritten signatures, which makes in general the same points made by the I. L. D. last week, and which adds that "as *The Nation* knows that the parents and the boys themselves" wish the I. L. D. to represent them, it is "respectfully" urged either to "support the I. L. D. in its fight for the boys' freedom or at least to cease endangering the lives of the boys by continuing the unjustified attacks upon the I. L. D. and its handling of the case."

Letters of protest on *The Nation's* position also came from James Rose, Justine Wise Tulin, A. Hoppe, Henry Hart, and others.—EDITORS THE NATION

Nation
12-19-34
New York
Vol 139
No 3624

Albany, Ga., Herald
December 6, 1934

AIMED AT THE SOUTH.

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"And the South is asleep..

Scottsboro Protest Cable Sent by Dutch Group to Roosevelt

Daily Worker

Copy of a telegram to President Roosevelt, demanding the freedom of the nine innocent Scottsboro boys, sent by the Holland Scottsboro Committee, with headquarters at Amsterdam, Holland, has been received in New York by the national office of the International Labor Defense, 80 East 11th Street.

New York

The Holland Committee, of which G. Manoury, well-known professor of mathematics at Amsterdam, is chairman, has enlisted the support of 93 prominent Dutch writers, artists, university professors, physicians and lawyers, for the Scottsboro campaign.

I. L. D. Still in Control of Scottsboro Case; Seeks Peace With The American Committee And Friends of Liebowitz

Despite the strenuous efforts of Attorney Samuel S. Liebowitz and the American Scottsboro Committee during the past few weeks, recent developments would indicate that the International Labor Defense, through Osmond K. Fraenkel and Walter H. Pollak, its attorneys, will have charge of the appeal before the United States Supreme Court in the case of Clarence Norris and Haywood Patterson, under sentence of death in the Scottsboro rape case.

Because of the affiliation of the I. L. D. with the Communist Party, many people felt that they were exploiting the case to gain recruits for the Communists, and many joined with Mr. Leibowitz in an effort to take the case from the control of the radical group.

It seems, however, that those most concerned in the matter, the nine boys and their parents or guardians, have given authority to the I. L. D. to continue with the defense and the following developments would indicate that they are doing so:

1. November 16—A stay of the date of execution for Haywood Patterson and Clarence Norris to February 8, 1935, was granted by the Alabama Supreme Court on application of Osmond K. Fraenkel.

2. November 17—Application for writ of certiorari in the appeal of Clarence Noris was filhed with the U. S. Supreme Court by Osmond K. Fraenkel.

3. December 1—Notice of appeal filed with the U. S. Supreme Court for Haywood Patterson by Osmond K. Fraenkel and Walter H. Pollak, both retained by the I. L. D.

Seeks United Action

Overtures were made last week by the I. L. D. to the American Scottsboro Committee for a conference to get united action on behalf of the unfortunate youths but Dr. George E. Haynes, secretary of the latter group, declined the invitation.

As proof of their desire to attend strictly to the business of conducting the defense, the I. L. D. published a financial statement of monies collected up to August 31, 1934, in behalf of the defense of these boys. This statement is as follows:

$61,825.23 Raised

A financial statement showing a total income of $61,825.23, and a total expenditure of $64,351.75 on the Scottsboro case over the 40-month period from April 11, 1931, to August 31, 1934, was made public by the International Labor Defense last week.

The statement showed an expenditure of $38,181.05, or 62.1 per cent of the total income, on strictly legal expenses in connection with the case. This figure covers lawyers fees and expenses, investigations which resulted in complete exposure of the Scottsboro frameup, printing and court records, and expenses connected with the three Scottsboro trials, two appeals to the state Supreme Court, one complete appeal to the U. S. Supreme Court and partial expenses for the present appeal, and numerous motions and habeas corpus proceedings in the nine cases.

Expenditures for relief to the prisoners and their families, and expenses in connection with visits of the parents to their sons, total $3,033.52, or 5 per cent of the total income.

"The expenses of the mass campaign which has raised the Scottsboro case to international significance, and made the issues involved in it known to tens of millions all over the world, rousing them to struggle on behalf of the boys, were $7,670.36, or 12|3 per cent of the total amount collected.

It was this mass campaign, including nationwide and international speaking tours, the Scottsboro March to Washington in 1933, and publicity on an international scale, which made it possible to collect the huge sums needed for legal defense, and without which legal defense, carried on in the heart of the South without the eyes of the world upon the court-room, could never have been sufficient to keep the Scottsboro boys alive for three and a half years.

Administrative expenses over the 40-month period were $14,866.82, or 24 per cent of the total amount of collections. This percentage, it was pointed out, is much lower than that for similar expenses in any defense action on such a scale over such a period of time. In contrast to this law percentage, the I. L. D. pointed to the high overhead expenses in financial campaigns on a mass scale by such organizations as the Y. M. C. A. and the Red Cross. The percentage spent on overhead by the Red Cross as recently revealed in the article by John L. Spivak in the American Mercury is 71¼ per cent.

Hathaway Urges Funds To Save Scottsboro Boys

Cites Critical Situation Faced by the I.L.D. in Long Struggle

By C. A. Hathaway

EDITOR, DAILY WORKER

At any moment, now, the United States Supreme Court may hand down its decision on the application for review of the lynch verdicts of death against two of the Scottsboro boys, Haywood Patterson and Clarence Norris.

Today, the appeal of Angelo Herndon, young Negro leader of the unemployed, heroic fighter for the unity of white and black workers, begins its journey through the same halls "of last illusion."

Unquestionably the fight for the lives and freedom of the Scottsboro boys, the struggle to hold Angelo Herndon from the horrors of the Georgia chain-gang, represent at this moment a major struggle in the fight of the American toilers to maintain their civil rights in the face of a general increase of political reaction.

The fight for unity of action between white and Negro, the uncompromising struggle against those who would destroy this unity, setting white against black in blind, uncomprehending fury of lynch hatred, is being conducted here.

A solid, united front of struggle must be achieved on this basic issue confronting the American working-class, and a mass movement of huge proportions, involving hundreds of thousands of white and black people opposed to fascism and lynch terror, developed, to force the United States Supreme Court to hear the Scottsboro appeals and to reverse the lynch-verdicts.

The fight must be continued and developed to the ultimate victory of unconditional freedom for the Scottsboro boys.

At this moment the International Labor Defense, through whose untiring efforts in the leadership of the Scottsboro defense the boys have been kept alive for three and a half years in the face of the determined efforts of the white ruling class to murder them, faces a critical situation in this campaign.

A total of $6,000 is needed immediately to continue the campaign, to cover the huge expenses of the applications for review and of the appeals to the United States Supreme Court in the Scottsboro and Herndon cases.

I urge every worker, every friend of the Negro people, every foe of fascism, every individual and organization that wishes to see the lives of the Scottsboro boys and Angelo Herndon saved, their freedom won, to join wholeheartedly in the mass campaign and the collection of funds necessary to achieve this end.

It is the special duty of every Communist, in our fight for the national liberation of the Negro people, to participate in this campaign, to organize and stimulate it, everywhere.

Funds for the Scottsboro-Herndon defense should be rushed immediately, by airmail, and special delivery, to the national office of the International Labor Defense, Room 610, 80 East 11th Street, New York City.

Lynchings-1934
Legal Punishment for Rape.

Alabama.

4673

NEW YORK AMERICAN
B'klyn. Section
JUN 17 1934

SCOTTSBORO GIRL TALKS AT TILDEN HIGH

Students Throng to Hear Ruby Bates Plead for Men She Accused of Assault on Train

Mothers and fathers stormed a large meeting Friday night at Samuel Tilden High School, to protest against the corruption of their children by hearing Ruby Bates, but remained to give money to her cause—defense of the Scottsboro Negroes.

They ~~had expe~~cted to see the demoralizing spectacle of a former camp follower of a hobo jungle presenting herself to a group of boys and girls of impressionable years. Instead they found a simple girl making a simple appeal for justice.

DENIES ASSAULT STORY.

She had never been assaulted by the nine Negroes, she swore. Her former story of the outrage, on a freight train from Chattanooga, was only a lie, told under compulsion to bolster the perjury of her girl friend, Victoria Price, she said.

She and Victoria lied to escape arrest for stealing the ride back home in Alabama. But despite her repudiation of the fantastic tale the State of Alabama demands the lives of the nine Negroes.

And the parents who came to denounce her, and the children who came to condemn their fellow students who brought Ruby Bates left with the feeling, they say, that there was nothing radical or Communistic in having her speak.

Even the school principal, John Loughran, who was between the fires of parental criticism for allowing Ruby Bates to speak and of prohibiting free speech on an important subject, had only praise for the address.

TWO AWAIT APPEAL.

Two of the Negroes, Heywood Patterson and Clarence Norris, are in the death house at Kilby Prison, Montgomery, awaiting the appeal just made on their conviction of alleged assault upon Ruby and her companion, Victoria Price.

The appeal was made last week by Samuel Liebowitz, who defended the young men, and who would have had Ruby Bates there to testify had she not been confined in a New York hospital at the time.

Ruby, who has not yet reached 20, is working as a waitress in a New York restaurant. She was brought here by the International Labor Defense after the first trial of the men she and Victoria accused.

The meeting of school children was promoted by their organization, a branch of the National Student League, Communistic, at least in sympathies.

Their president, James LeRoy, swore to Principal John Loughran of the school that the league has no affiliations with older and more sophisticated radicals, and Principal Loughran believes the youngster.

PRINCIPAL ON SPOT.

Nevertheless the youngsters put their principal in a spot when they obtained permission to hold a meeting for discussion among themselves of a nationally interesting subject, then without his knowledge invited the woman of the scandal to address them.

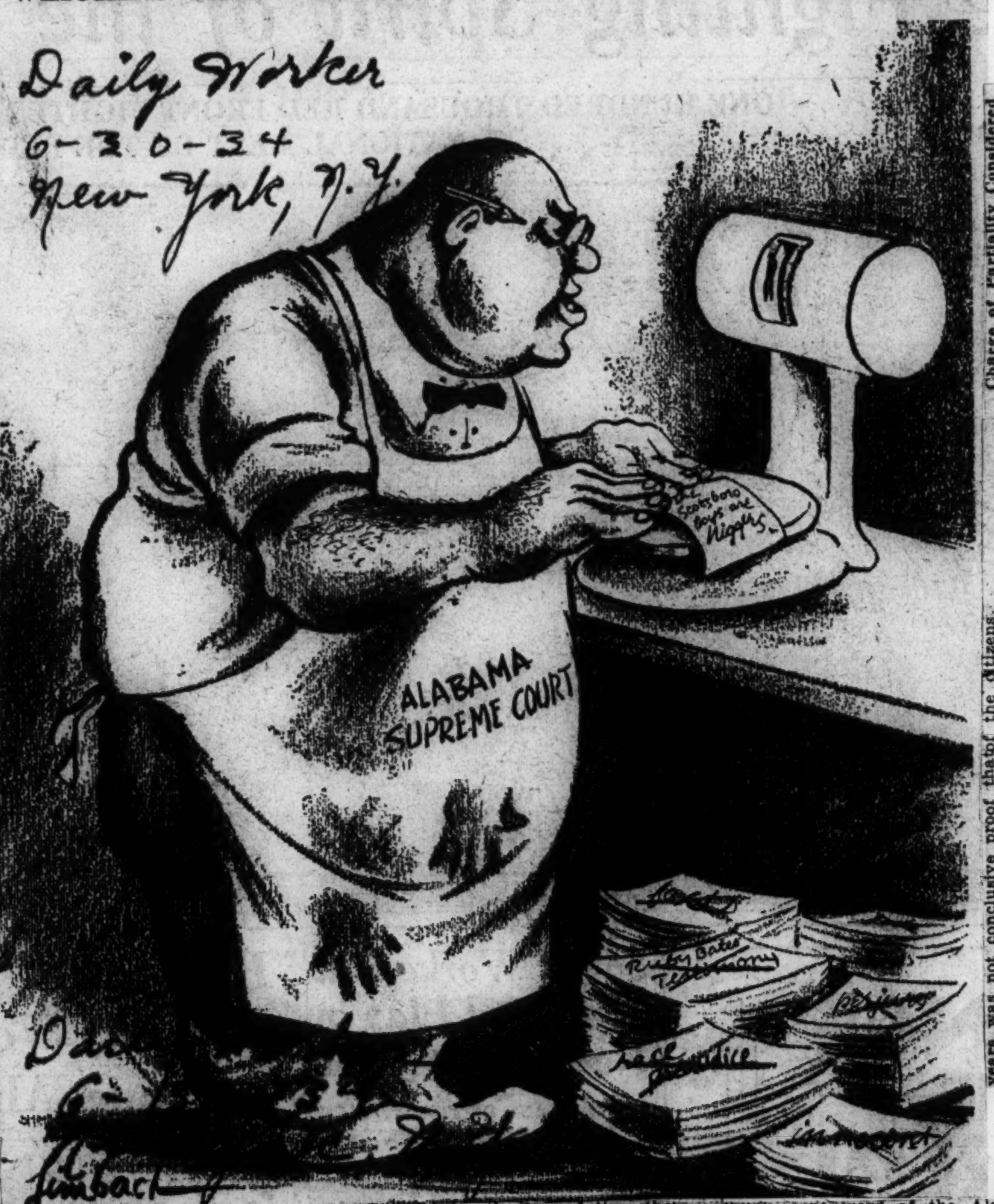
Loughran said:

"I didn't know that the youngsters were going to invite Ruby Bates to speak at their meeting. Since they had, however, I considered it would be better to let them have the meeting, and to set in on it. Then I could decide, in the light of the event itself, whether they acted wisely.

WEIGHING THE EVIDENCE

by Limbach

Daily Worker
6-30-34
New York, N.Y.



TWO SCOTTSBORO VERDICTS UPHELD

Telegraph 6-29-34
Macon, Ga.

Defense in Famous Assault Case Will Appeal to United States Supreme Court

MONTGOMERY, Ala., June 28 (AP) The United States Supreme court will be asked for the second time to rule on the convictions of the two Scottsboro Negroes whose deaths today were set for Aug. 31 by the Alabama Supreme court.

The Alabama court found no reason to prevent the Negroes from going to the electric chair for an alleged massed attack on Mrs. Victoria Price, white cotton mill worker and upheld for the second time the death sentences of Heywood Patterson and Clarence Norris that have brought world-wide demonstrations in the Negroes' behalf.

Associates of Samuel S. Leibowitz, New York attorney and chief of defense counsel employed by the International Labor Defense, said the cases would be taken to the United States Supreme court. Leibowitz was en route to Europe and his office immediately sent word of the Alabama court's action to him by wireless.

The Patterson case was thrown out on a technicality today when the court found the bill of exceptions had not been filed within the required 90 days' time limit.

Jury Issue Is Denied

After ruling the bill of exceptions out, the court was restricted to the court records and could not consider the case on its merits.

The court ruled in detail, however, on contentions of attorneys for Norris that Negroes had been excluded from the jury, holding that the jury commission fairly executed its duties, did not discriminate against the Negro race and that the federal constitution had not been violated.

Associate Justice Lucien Gardner, who wrote the decision in the Norris case, held that the fact that no Negroes had served as jurors in Jackson county over a period of years was not conclusive proof that members of the race were excluded from the grand jury which returned the indictments under which the Negroes were tried.

Choice of Jurors Stressed

"Deeply imbedded in our judicial system is the right of trial by jury," Justice Gardner wrote. "However, imperative it may be that the judges be learned in the law, and capable of its proper interpretation in their instructions to the jury, yet, after all, it is the jury that holds in its hand the life, liberty and property of the citizens.

"Their's may well be denominated a sacred trust, and the importance of calling for such high service men of intelligence, character and sound judgment cannot be too greatly stressed.

"The discretion as to the composition of the jury roll must be vested in some one and in this state our statute has imposed this duty on jury commissioners, appointed by the governor. Presumably these officers faithfully discharge their duty."

Charge of Partiality Considered

The decision also overruled the error alleged by the defense that Judge W. W. Callahan, trial judge, was partial to the state and refused to permit [illegible] to be questioned as to her prior life, especially the question, "Were you ever convicted of the crime of adultery?"

"The answer to the argument," Justice Gardner held, "is that under our decisions the question is too broad and does not embrace the appropriate predicate."

Three times the Negroes have

been convicted by the lower courts since they were pulled from a freight train in the mountain town of Paint Rock in 1931 and charged with a massed criminal assault on Ruby Bates and Mrs. Price.

USTICES RULE NEGROES GUILTY

Death Sentences For Tw In Scottsboro Case Are Upheld In Ruling

By United Press.

MONTGOMERY, June 28.—The Alabama supreme court today affirmed the Morgan county circuit court conviction of Haywood Patterson and Clarence Norris, two negro defendants in the Scottsboro attack case, and set their execution date for Friday, Aug. 31.

"We find no error to reverse," the unanimous decision read. It was the second time the state's high tribunal has upheld a circuit court conviction in the case. On the previous occasion the verdict finally was reversed by the United States supreme court.

Patterson faces the electric chair for the third time for his part in the alleged assault upon two white girls on a freight train in Jackson county early in 1931. His second convictions was set aside by the trial judge, James E. Horton of Athens.

The defense contended that Norris was denied his constitutional rights because negroes were excluded from the jury which tried him. The supreme court ruled however that proof before the trial judge—W. W. Callahan—showed that jury commissioners had made no exclusion of any negro and that jurors should not be selected indiscriminately but be chosen carefully for their fitness to pass on questions.

"Exclusion by the jury commission of many whites gives indication that the commission went about its duties with an honest and sincere purpose to select the best available men," the decision said. "If members of the jury commission are to be believed, no discrimination against negroes was shown; on the contrary it was emphatically disproved."

That the case will be again appealed to the United States supreme court was indicated in a news dispatch today from New York, where an associate of Samuel Leibowitz counsel for Norris and Patterson declared a review of the Alabama tribunal's ruling will be asked.

CONVICTION UPHELD IN SCOTTSBORO CASE

U. S. Supreme Court Will Be Asked for Second Time To Give Ruling.

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The court ruled in detail, however, in contentions of attorneys for Norris that negroes had been excluded from the jury, holding that the jury commission fairly executed its duties, did not discriminate against the negro race and that the federal constitution had not been violated.

Associate Justice Lucien Gardner, who wrote the decision in the Norris case, upheld the Alabama jury system on which Leibowitz, a predicate for appeal to the United States supreme court, alleging the absence of negroes from juries was "systematic, solely because of their race and color."

"We are of the opinion, the proof clearly shows," the associate justice wrote, "that the jury commissioners did fairly and honestly endeavor to discharge their duty, and did not in fact discriminate against the negro race in the selection of the jury list, and that no provision of the federal constitution has been infringed."

The justice held that the fact that no negroes had served as jurors in Jackson county over a period of years was not conclusive proof that members of the race were excluded from the grand jury which returned the indictments under which the negroes were tried.

"Deeply imbedded in our judicial system is the right of trial by jury," Justice Gardned wrote. "However imperative it may be that the judges be learned in the law and capable of its proper interpretation in their instructions to the jury, yet, after all, it is the jury that holds in its hand the life, liberty and property of the citizens.

"Theirs may well be denominated a sacred trust, and the importance of calling for such high service men of intelligence, character and sound judgment cannot be too greatly stressed.

"The discretion as to the composition of the jury roll must be vested in some one, and in this state our statute has imposed this duty on jury commissioners, appointed by the governor. Presumably these officers faithfully discharge their duty."

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"The answer to the argument," Justice Gardner held, "is that under the decisions the question is too broad and does not embrace the appropriate predicate."

Scottsboro Mother Stranded In City

With most of the local comrades in the Communist party in Oklahoma City jailed, because of recent disorders, when the relief headquarters were stormed, Mrs. Ada Wright, mother of two of the famous Scottsboro boys, was stranded in Oklahoma City Wednesday until provided for by Editor Roscoe Dunjee, president of the Oklahoma Conference of Branches of the N. A. A. C. P.

"I expected to find friends here, and was directed to certain persons' homes, who would care for me," said Mrs. Wright when she arrived at the registration headquarters from the New York office of the International Labor Defense. "I find these people are all in jail and am without funds."

Editor Dunjee immediately took Mrs. Wright to the Accacia rooming house and provided for her comfort. She was later interviewed by Walter White, secretary of the N. A. A. C. P.

Mrs. Wright will speak before the conference, having been sent here by the International Labor Defense. She carried a letter signed by William L. Patterson, secretary of the ILD, saying that Mrs. Wright had been selected to represent the organization.

"Mrs. Wright will receive every attention and comfort while in the city," announced Editor Dunjee.

'I regret that she was embarassed because of the difficulty she referred to."

Smash the Lynch Verdict Save the Scottsboro Boys!

Daily Worker 6-30-34

New York N.Y.

"WE FIND no error to reverse." With this cynical statement, the Alabama Supreme Court on Wednesday once more sustained the monstrous lynch verdicts against Haywood Patterson and Clarence Norris, two of the nine innocent Scottsboro boys.

This infamous decision occurs on the background of an upsurge of strike and unemployed struggles throughout the country, of increasing unity and militancy of Negro and white workers in the fight against starvation, lynch terror and the fascist attacks under cover of the "New Deal."

It follows on the heel of the decision of the Georgia Supreme Court upholding the virtual sentence of death of 18 to 20 years on the chain gang against Angelo Herndon, heroic Negro organizer of Atlanta unemployed workers. The sinister intent of both decisions is to throw terror into the ranks of the whole toiling population, North and South, and particularly of the Negro masses moving forward into struggle against imperial oppression.

In its decision, the high tribunal of the Alabama capitalists and landlords defends the fame-up of Negro youth by the lower lynch courts, the violation of the constitutional rights of the Negro people, the open appeal by prosecutor and trial judge to the prejudice and passions of an all-white boss jury, the murderous lynch incitement carried on by prosecuting officials and judge' within the Decatur court at the trial last Fall of Patterson and Norris.

* * *

THE Alabama Supreme Court upholds the Ku Klux jurist, Judge Callahan, in his overruling of the defense motion of the International Labor Defense to squash the indictments because of the violation of the constitutional rights of the defendants and the Negro people generally through the exclusion of Negroes from the grand jury which indicted, and the petit juries which tried the boys.

It admits the fact that Negroes have been excluded from juries in Jackson County, Ala., but pretends that this is no proof of systematic exclusion of Negroes from juries. It raises the chauvinist argument that of the 666 Negroes of legal age in Jackson County, not one was qualified to fulfill the "sacred trust" of an Alabama juror.

The Alabama ruling class lynchers have once more decreed the legal massacre of the nine Scottsboro boys. They have set a new date, August 31, for the burning in the electric chair of the nine innocent Negro boys. Wednesday's decision in the case of Patterson and Norris affects the lives of all nine of the boys.

This monstrous attempt to carry through the legal murder of the Scottsboro boys, in the face of the overwhelming proof of their innocence, dmitted even by Judge Horton, lynch jurist who resided at the first Decatur trial, must arouse the ndignation of every worker and of every sincere ighter against lynching.

Answer the lynchers with a thunder of protest nd with immediate contributions to the Internaional Labor Defense to enable it to carry forward he fight for the lives of these innocent victims of capitalist justice.

Rush protests to the Alabama Supreme Court and Gov. B. M. Miller, both of Montgomery, Ala., and to President Roosevelt. Demand the immediate, unconditional and safe release of the Scottsboro Boys! Send funds at once to the I. L. D. to enable it to prepare and carry through the appeal to the U. S. Supreme Court.

SCOTTSBORO CASE

The Committee of citizens who met at Scottsboro Headquarters 1029 Tremont Street Sunday, Dec. 16th endorsed a letter to be sent to all ministers of colored Greater Boston asking them to allow the representatives from I. L. D. to speak to their congregations and tell them the truth of The Scottsboro Boys Case —A Scottsboro Herndon Action Committee was organized with Mr. Wm. Taylor of 51 Humboldt Ave. Chairman. Mrs. Mary Alquist, Secretary, Attorney Bourne was chairman. Reports by Samuel Robinson who visited Pres. Roosevelt and Mrs. Mary E. Moore's visit two years ago and her experiences with the ministers of Boston threw light on the subject of Scottsboro Case never before revealed.

The Scottsboro Herndon Committee meets again Sunday Dec. 30, at 1029 Tremont Street at 3 o'clock.

Lynchings- 1934
Legal Punishment for Rape.

Alabama-

4674

J. Louis Engdahl: A Bolshevik Leader, Fearless Fighter for Negro Liberatio

Died in Battle for Scottsboro Boys' Freedom

By HARRIET SILVERMAN

TWO years have passed since the Communist Party of the U. S. A. and the Communist International lost a splendid fighter and leader in the class struggle, J. Louis Engdahl. His loyalty withstood the test of all situations. In the face of the enemy he was fearless.

November 21st marks the day Engdahl the Bolshevik died in the shadow of the Kremlin Wall in Moscow, the heart of World Revolution. If there had been any choice as to time and place, Engdahl would have chosen to spend his last hours in the Workers' Fatherland where all that the enslaved workers of the world are struggling for, has already been achieved, where there is no hunger, no idle millions starving in the midst of plenty, no capitalist misery and oppression and above all no brutal exploitation and torture of workers whose skin is black.

Engdahl's death in the prime of life tore a deep wound in the revolutionary ranks. His devotion to the historic struggle of the working class for the overthrow of capitalism came from his revolutionary hatred of capitalism and all its institutions. Thirty years of such intense devotion to the struggle on all fronts, can hardly be called common even in the revolutionary movement.

Of Engdahl, his comrades have written: "He kept the longest hours. He was almost never late. On the Daily Worker of which he was the first editor, we know of weeks at a stretch when because of the small and inadequate staff, he worked fully 18 to 20 hours a day. Comrades fifteen years younger than he wailed at the pace and relaxed, but Engdahl would be in at nine in the morning and at two the next morning he would be reading the news to prepare his editorials."

Unceasing Work for Scottsboro Boys

Engdahl died exhausted by his unceasing labors in the momentous class battle of Scottsboro. As the national secretary of the International Labor Defense he proved himself a magnificent fighter in the defense of all class war prisoners.

In the Scottsboro case he was the Communist fighter, applying the Communist Party line in the great struggle for Negro liberation, for complete social and political equality, for the right to self-determination in the black belt.

The nine innocent Negro working-class youth, caught in the most monstrous frame-up in history, became the international symbol of the Communist Party's program, uniting Negro and white workers for common revolutionary struggle against the capitalist class. Every step in the case became the means of making the Negro masses conscious of their tasks, conscious of their role as the allies and revolutionary brothers of the white workers, who can only win lasting freedom together through revolutionary struggle and under a proletarian dictatorship such as the workers have established in the U. S. S. R.

Engdahl sought and found the means to drive home these ideas in the day to day practical tasks involved in the case, Engdahl had no illusions about capitalist courts, or capitalist justice. While organizing, in the early stages of the Scottsboro struggles, the forces for a brilliant legal defense he, at the same time involved tremendous masses of workers without whose pressure and splendid fighting power, the Scottsboro boys would long ago have been lynched.

He died on the field of battle while on tour with the Scotsboro mother, Mrs. Ada Wright with whom he covered 16 European countries and more than 200 meetings, in the fight to snatch the boys from the hands of judicial lynchers. Of the world appeal of Scottsboro for the workers, Engdahl wrote:

"The raising of the name of 'Scottsboro' from the isolation of the name of an unknown Alabama hamlet to an international by-word of infamy, but at the same time a militant call of working-class struggle, is another chapter in the world-wide defense struggles of the International Red Aid (I.L.D.) . . . When the judicial lynching of the Scottsboro boys was being carried through in Alabama, the Third Plenum of the International Executive Committee of the International Red Aid was in session in Moscow. Immediately after the world protest was launched, and in many countries and consulates, the American dollar magnates began at once hearing the protests of aroused working-class masses."

When the tremendous roar of mass protest, began to crash against the walls and ears of the European embassies and a new trial was granted for the Scottsboro boys, J. Louis Engdahl saw the pitfalls ahead despite the victory won. His warning to all of us was: "DON'T RELAX FOR AN INSTANT IN THE STRUGGLE. NO ILLUSIONS. EXPECT NOTHING FROM THE CAPITALIST COURTS. FORWARD WITH THE STRUGGLE ON NEW FRONTS, UNTIL THE SCOTTSBORO NINE ARE FREE."

The class character of the Scottsboro case was perhaps best illustrated in Bulgaria and of Fascist brutality, and where our heroic comrade Dimitroff was born. Engdahl wrote of this Bulgarian hell hole as follows:

"But it was in this land where the Scottsboro Negro mother found one of the best functioning Scottsboro Committees, ready and eager to give her every possible assistance. They came—men, women and children—to the railroad station upon her arrival and showered her with red flowers and the greetings of the workers and peasants. On the reception committee one would show the horrible scars of red hot needles driven through the fingers under the nails, the Bulgarian third degree method of forcing the confession the Bulgarian fascist state desired. Unsuccessful, it had hurled this victim into prison for three years; not a worker or peasant—but a writer. Another could show the wound of the gendarme's bullet that had pierced his shoulder. Hatred for the Bulgarian murder regime! Burning hatred for the judicial lynch murder system that seeks to burn alive in the electric chair the Scottsboro Negro children in Alabama, almost on the other side of the world."

Thrown into Prison

Into the teeth of the fascist murderers of other countries, defiant and fearless, Engdahl organized the mighty invincible bonds of international working-class solidarity. For this he was thrown into urison repeatedly during the European tour

Warned Against Any Relaxing of the Struggle

For this, the lynchers and their henchmen, the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People, have today once more turned their energy, not into the life and death struggle to free the Scottsboro boys but into a new attack against the International Labor Defense and the Communist Party.

These misleaders of the Negro people, and their allies, know full well that the Communist Party will never relax in its drive to wrest unconditional freedom for the Scottsboro boys, and, on the basis of the class issues of this crucial battle to win over the toiling masses for the revolutionary movement.

Scottsboro is the turning point and rallying call to action in the struggle for Negro liberation. The lynchers and their lickspittles see the handwriting on the wall. The lynchers cannot be fought without fighting the very roots of the economic and social system-capitalism out of which lynching springs—out of which spring the misery and degradation of the masses. Fascism looms ahead. The working-class girds itself for new and tremendous class battles. Through and in the Scottsboro case, we can and must forge the united front of all toilers, who must be made to see that only through united struggle can their class interests be defended. Scottsboro is one link in the defensive struggle against Fascist terror.

Reservoir of Strength

Engdahl, during the two years which began the momentous struggle for the lives of nine unknown Negro boys demonstrated what a tremendous reservoir of strength lies hidden in the ranks of the toiling masses, waiting to be organized. Among the last letters he wrote one finds the sharp warning to meet the challenge of Scottsboro with relentless struggle.

"Today, whatever the decision, starts new battles for us in the Scottsboro campaign. The International Red Aid supported by the many tens of millions in all countries, demands the overturn of the electric chair verdicts of the Scottsboro and the Alabama lynch courts."

We have lost a resourceful and valiant Communist fighter who combined to an inspiring degree the characteristics of the revolutionary vanguard of the international working class." He died fighting in a campaign which has convinced great masses of workers of the sincerity of the Communist Party and its program as the only real champion of Negro liberation. Engdahl gave his life to mobilize, to train, to lead the workers towards the final conflict that will sweep capitalism and its fascist tools off the face of the earth. The greatest tribute we can pay to Engdahl, the beloved revolutionary leader, is to win over fresh forces of Negro and white workers, young workers, men and women, out of which to cement the Red Battalions that will one day establish a Soviet America!

J. LOUIS ENGDAHL

Scene in Morgan County courthouse in Decatur, Ala., just before opening of Scottsboro trial, showing National Guardsmen with fixed bayonets.

NOTED SOUTHERNER HEADS NEW GROUP FIGHTING FOR "SCOTTSBORO BOYS"

Dr. James H. Dillard, Former Head of Jeanes Foundation Heads Committee of Sane Leaders

New York, November 30:—James Hardy Dillard, D. Litt., LL. D., of Charlottesville, Va., was elected Chairman of The American Scottsboro Committee, Inc., 289 Fourth Avenue, here today. Dr. Dillard is widely known throughout the nation as former president of Jeanes Foundation for the development of Negro rural schools, and President of the John F. Slater Fund, 1907-1931. He is now Vice-President of the Phelps-Stokes Fund; a member of the General Education Board, Trustee of the General Theological Seminary and formerly Rector of the Williams and Mary College in Virginia. He is the author of two volumes in the educational field; the editor of several publications; and a contributor to newspapers and magazines. In 1928 he was awarded the Harmon gold medal and $500 for promoting better relations between the races and for activity in increasing educational facilities for Negroes in the South. Dr. Dillard is widely known for his liberal views on educational and economic problems.

Other officers of The American Scottsboro Committee are: Dr. George E. Haynes, Executive Vice-Chairman; Dr. L. H. King, Chairman Executive Committee; Owen R. Lovejoy, Recording Secretary; Dr. J. W. Brown, Treasurer; Olyve L

Jeter, Assistant Treasurer. The Committee also announced the acceptances of membership by an additional number of outstanding white and Negro citizens in different parts of the country among them the following: Dr. S. Parkes Cadman of Brooklyn, New York; Dr. Henry Sloane Coffin, President of Union Theological Seminary, New York; Mrs. George Madden Martin, novelist, Louisville, Kentucky; Rev. Harold M. Kingsley, Chicago; Bishop L. W. Kyles, A. M. E. Zion Church; Mr. Fred B. Smith of the World Alliance for Friendship through the Churches: Atty. Norman H. McGhee, Cleveland, Ohio; Howard P. Drew, Hartford, Conn.; Rev. David Rhys Williams of Rochester, N. Y.; and Dr. William Hiram Foulkes, Old First Church, Newark, N. J.; Rabbi Alexander Lyons, Brooklyn, N. Y.; Mr. Morris Weinstein, New York.

12-7-34

A Call to Aid Terror Victims of Spain

An Appeal

"In the name of those who are dear to us, of those who are being tortured and killed, we call upon you, women toilers of hand and brain, of all political convictions, to come to the assistance of the victims of fascist terror in Spain!"

Daily Worker

This is the call to the women of the world made by the wives and mothers of victims of fascism in Europe and America: Dimitrova, mother of George Dimitrov, whose other sons have fallen victims to the fascist terror in Bulgaria, Alma Terracini, wife of the prisoner in Mussolini's jail, Mme. Vuillemin of France, Frau Stenzer of Germany and Frau Muennichreiter of Austria.

12-11-34

Mrs. Ada Wright, mother of Roy and Andy Wright, two of the Scottsboro boys, also subscribed to the appeal as it was issued through the International Labor Defense here, which is leading the struggle in America in defense and for material aid to the victims of fascist reaction in Spain.

The appeal is addressed to the toiling women of all countries:

New York

"We, the mothers, sisters, wives and daughters of the toilers who have fallen in struggle in the countries where fascism has developed its wild offensive," they write, "we, whose dearly loved husbands, sons, fathers and brothers are suffering in the prisons and concentration camps, call upon you for solidarity with the fighters in Spain.

"In the Hitler jails, in the accursed islands of Mussolini, in the Pilsudski dungeons, in the prisons of Hungary, the Balkan countries and Austria—where Thaelmann, Gramsci, and Rakosi are imprisoned, there are hundreds of thousands of other suffering proletarian fighters.

"We must unite all our forces, we must show resistance to the bloody offensive of fascism, we must hasten to the aid of the victims of bourgeois reaction. Too much blood has been shed; there have been too many victims. It is our duty to fight.

"The International Red Aid (world body of which the I. L. D. is the American section) is already conducting a world campaign of relief for the victims of Spanish fascism, for the heroic fighters of Asturias, Catalonia and the Basque Province, who so bravely fought in the towns and villages, supported by their wives and children.

"We, who are still weeping over the death or imprisonment of our dear ones, stand in the front ranks of this campaign of solidarity with the Spanish fighters. The cause for which they fight is our cause. The struggle for the liberation of the many thousands of prisoners in Spain, and solidarity with them, is our duty on a level with the struggle for the liberation of our relatives.

"Let us support this campaign, and mobilize our forces. All of us, women proletarians, workers, unemployed, farm women, housewives, intellectuals—we must all develop tireless activity, become tireless propagandists for this cause of relief."

Funds for the relief of the victims of Spanish fascism should be sent to the national office of the International Labor Defense, Room 610, 80 East 11th Street, New York City, for immediate transmission to Spain, through the Spanish I. L. D.

Charleston, S. C., News & Courier
December 9, 1934

The Mercies of Alabama

The other day it was published that the governor of Alabama, Mr. Miller, had pardoned during his term of office a huge number of convicts or commuted their sentences, and it was said that his "eyes sometimes filled with tears" when he contemplated some of the unfortunates who had run afoul of the law.

If it be that in Alabama a sentence of the court is often to be taken in a Pickwickian sense, that the verdict of a jury is to weigh little against the overflowing milk of human kindness in the heart of the executive, what does it profit a newspaper to defend the attitude of the state of Alabama toward the Scottsboro negroes? If one is to be suddenly a~~pprised th~~at punishment of crime is unusual in Alabama, and scarcely to be expected, is not one embarrassed to deny the accusations of The Nation and The New Republic that these negroes are the objects of persecution?

It has seemed to The News and Courier of the utmost importance that the state of Alabama should be respected and protected in its right to dispose of the Scottsboro cases in its own way, in defiance and contempt of the foreigner interferers, but if Alabama is to be set forth before the world by its governor as a state in which the punishment of crime is not to be seriously considered, it becomes difficult to interpose a reason why he should not exhibit some of his effervescing and over-running mercy in behalf of those negroes. Obviously no one would suggest that he would defer to excited popular opinion in Alabama, he is far above that, and it must be said that outside of Alabama the Scottsboro negroes apparently have the whole-hearted sympathies and affections of a considerable number of the meddlesome and neurotic element in the American population.

Lynchings-1934
Legal Punishment for Rape.

Alabama

4675

Walter White Denies That NAACP Is Trying To Take The Case Of Scottsboro Boys Away From ILD

Age 4-21-34
New York, N.Y.

Denial that the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People is trying to have its lawyers accepted as counsel by the Scottsboro boys and is attempting to force the International Labor Defense out of the case was made Saturday by Walter White, secretary of the N. A. A. C. P., in a letter to Samuel S. Leibowitz, chief attorney for the boys.

While the N. A. A. C. P. was making its denial, the I. L. D. was releasing to the country a story to the effect that "a pact between the leadership of the N. A. A. C. P and the Alabama lynchers was revealed last week as the immediate cause of the present intensified reign of terror against the Scottsboro boys in Jefferson County jail."

In his letter to Attorney Leibowitz, Mr. White wrote:

> "We sincerely trust that in this you are not being made the victim of propaganda.... We wish to state unequivocally that the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People has offered no lawyers to the defendants since our withdrawal from the case in January, 1932, when the defendants chose to be defended by counsel retained by the International Labor Defense. This Association has had no communication of any nature whatever with the defendants since that date.
>
> The only connection which this Association has had with the case has been that of fulfilling to the letter a written agreement with the I. L. D., made on April 2, 1933. This agreement provided that those persons who prefer contributing to the legal defense of the defendants through the N. A. A. C. P. expended to date through the I. L. D., a total of $3,532.07 for investigations, traveling expenses of lawyers and investigators, transcript of record, and the like."

The International Labor Defense release issued April 14, charged in part as follows following what they called an intensive investigation of the circumstances around the confinement of the boys in solitary cells during the past weeks:

"William Pickens, field secretary of the N. A. A. C. P., visited the Scottsboro boys in the jail, to try to persuade them to renounce the I. L. D. and accept a lynch lawyer of the Association, four weeks ago, it was revealed. "Failing in this effort, Pickens, who was accompanied by three white Birmingham 'liberals' had a conference with prison authorities.

"Deputy Warden Dan Rogers of the jail has openly told the boys that their present confinement in solitary cells will continue until they accept the defense of the N. A. A. C. P., they told a visitor who manager to get in to see them.

It was revealed at the same time that although it was very difficult for even a lawyer of the I. L. D., or any friend of the boys to get in to see them, representatives of the N. A. A. C. P., including the Rev. E. W. Taggart, local head of the Association, have had constant and easy access to the prison."

Almost immediately the present reign of terror against the boys intensified, and they were thrown into solitary confinement.

Unions Back Scottsboro Meet Apr. 25

Daily Worker
4-23-34
New York, N.Y.

Ann Burlak to Speak at Boston Protest Demonstration

NEW YORK.—The citywide demonstration called for April 25 International Scottsboro Day, to protest the torture of the Scottsboro boys and demand their immediate release has been endorsed by the Steel & Metal Workers Industrial Union, United Shoe & Leather Workers Union, Needle Trades Workers Industrial Union, Furniture Workers Industrial Union, United Council of Working-class Women, and the Young Communist League, it was announced yesterday by the International Labor Defense.

The demonstration, in which workers from all parts of the city will participate, will be held in Harlem at 5 o'clock this Wednesday afternoon. Mobilization points will be announced tomorrow.

* * *

Ann Burlak To Speak at Boston Protest

BOSTON, April 22.—Ann Burlak militant leader of the textile workers, will be the main speaker at the April 25 Scottsboro demonstration at Madison Square, South End Warwick and Sterling Streets, at 5 p. m. The workers will march into the Square in a demonstration starting at 5 o'clock from Douglas Square, East End.

* * *

Protest Meet Called in Capitol

WASHINGTON, D. C., April 22.—A mass meeting and demonstration will be held here, under the auspices of the I. L. D., April 25, to demand the freedom of the Scottsboro boys.

Albany-Decatur, Ala. Daily
April 16, 1934

Samuel Simon Leibowitz

In sarcastic vein the Montgomery Advertiser comments on the charge made by Samuel Simon Leibowitz, New York attorney, that defendants in the "Scottsboro case" are being mistreated in the Jefferson county jail.

The Advertiser says:

"Samuel S. Leibowitz, who came to Alabama to defend nine negroes charged with rape and who tried to convict a jury of "frog-eyed, tobacco-chewing hill billies," and the people of a whole State, is up to his old-time playfulness again.

"Leibowitz makes The New York Times headlines by charging that negroes in the Jefferson county jail are being tortured. Leibowitz has ordered Sheriff James Hawkins to give an explanation at once to the guardian of Alabama—Mr. Samuel S. Leibowitz.

"If Sheriff Hawkins does not immediately explain to Mr. Leibowitz just how he is running the Jefferson county jail the New York lawyer will order Governor Miller to do something about it.

"Sheriff Hawkins perhaps will reassure Leibowitz that prisoners are not tortured in the Jefferson county jail. But few Alabamians will blame him if he ignores the rude note from Leibowitz. After all the sheriff is responsible only to the people of Alabama and their appointed executive—not to a New York lawyer who would like to discredit the state in the eyes of the world.

"Nevertheless the people of New York who read the Leibowitz charges should be told that Sheriff Hawkins is one of the most conscientious law enforcement officers in Alabama—that only a few weeks ago he jeopardized his political life by pleading for a negro who he believed to be innocent.

"Sheriff Hawkins plead for the life of Willie Peterson, a negro charged with the murder of two prominent Birmingham girls. Many persons in Jefferson county believed the negro was guilty—as indeed did a jury.

"His testimony and earnest doubt as to the negro's guilt was instrumental in having Governor Miller commute the negro's sentence to life."

The Daily agrees that Leibowitz has the privilege of grandstanding all he pleases and considering his own admiration of himself, we cheerfully grant him freedom from criticism for trying to get his name into newspaper headlines.

Nevertheless The Daily does submit that Leibowitz should confine himself to the truth. The Scottsboro defendants have not been mistreated in the Birmingham jail and The Daily suspects that Leibowitz was satisfied they had not been when he made the grave accusations against Sheriff Hawkins.

The Advertiser is needlessly alarmed about what the people of New York should be told. No doubt they are as well acquainted with the kind of man Leibowitz is as are the people of Decatur. They know his principal bid for fame rests upon his success in freeing persons accused of crime, including gangsters like Vincent Coll and are not apt to be particularly impressed by anything he says or does.

Birmingham, Ala., Age-Herald
April 13, 1934

Blatant As Ever

In Sunday's New York Times there was a news notice to the effect that Samuel S. Leibowitz had written Sheriff Hawkins to complain of the treatment accorded "Negro defendants in the Scottsboro case" who are confined in the county jail. Starvation, violence, solitary confinement, these, Mr. Leibowitz had heard, were being visited upon his clients. So he called on the sheriff for a "thorough and impartial" investigation, and announced that unless a "favorable" reply were promptly forthcoming, he would appeal to Gov. Miller.

Well, the Grand Jury has just filed a special report to the effect that the starved, beaten, isolated Negroes are favored inmates of the jail. Far from being hungry, their sole criticism is directed at lack of variety in a menu which prevails throughout the institution. As for being beaten, some of these Negroes have beaten other prisoners, with the result that they were placed in a separate cell block. Mr. Leibowitz could have had these facts without calling in the reporters.

But that is not what he is after. He is engaged in a game which has served since the first Decatur trial to make a difficult situation infinitely more painful. There are many Alabamians who would prefer to see the Scottsboro case work out toward the ultimate release of the defendants. But the hope of such persons, who have no Harlem clients to satisfy, is not strengthened by the blatant irrelevancies of Mr. Leibowitz.

Montgomery, Ala., Advertiser
April 14. 1934

S. S. LEIBOWITZ, ESQ.

Samuel S. Leibowitz, who came to Alabama to defend nine Negroes' charged with rape and who tried to convict a jury of "frog-eyed, tobacco-chewing hill billies," and the people of a whole State, is up to his old-time playfulness again.

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Sheriff Hawkins plead for the life of Willie Peterson, a Negro charged with the murder of two prominent Birmingham girls. Many persons in Jefferson County believed the Negro was guilty—as indeed did a jury.

His testimony and earnest doubt as to the Negro's guilt was instrumental in having Governor Miller commute the Negro's sentence to life.

Alabama Jury Whitewashes Scottsboro Boys' Torturers

Daily Worker
4-16-34
New York

BIRMINGHAM, April 15.—Alarmed by indignant protests from every part of the country against the torture being inflicted on the Scottsboro boys held in his custody, Sheriff Hawkins of Jefferson County (Birmingham) Saturday called for and received a whitewash from the county grand jury.

Simultaneously it was announced that a demonstration will be called in Birmingham on May Day in Jim-Crow Capitol Park, immediately under the windows of Jefferson County jail, where the boys are now held in solitary confinement. The demonstration will demand the freedom of the Scottsboro boys.

Workers Organizing Real Investigation

The Birmingham district of the International Labor Defense meanwhile is arranging for an exhaustive investigation into the present torture of the Scottsboro boys, by a wide committee of black and white workers and liberals. Evidence of the pact between the national leadership of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People and the jail authorities, whose immediate fruits were the framing of the boys, throwing them into solitary, and threats to murder them unless they repudiated the International Labor Defense, will be presented to this committee.

"We could find no evidence of discrimination against the Scottsboro prisoners," the whitewashing grand jury declared after the sheriff's witnesses had appeared before it repeating the warden's previous lies that the boys themselves caused the disturbance.

Nation-Wide Protests Urged

The I. L. D. has called on all sympathizers to adopt protest resolutions and send telegrams, demanding an end to the torture of the Scottsboro boys, to be sent to Governor B. M. Miller, F. B. Feagin, head of the state prison board, and the state Supreme Court, all at Montgomery, and to Sheriff Hawkins and Warden F. L. Erwin of Jefferson County jail, at Birmingham.

The appeal in the case of Heywood Patterson and Clarence Norris, sentenced to burn by an all-white jury, is now before the state Supreme Court, which has so far failed to set a date for a hearing.

Call On All May 1 Meets to Wire Protests

I. L. D. districts and the sections of the International Red Aid throughout the world, calling demonstrations for the release of the Scottsboro boys April 25, will support the May 1 demonstrations here with telegrams, cables and protest resolutions. All May 1 demonstrations will also be called on to send telegrams of protest to Alabama officials, supporting the Birmingham demonstration.

Meanwhile, more details of the mistreatment of the Scottsboro boys in Jefferson County jail and the complicity of the N. A. A. C. P. leaders in their torture, were bared by the I. L. D.

The N. A. A. C. P. leadership first employed a Negro spy, a Mrs. Hook, who obtained access to the prison by arrangement with the lynch-authorities, and volunteered to take in all packages, etc., sent to them by sympathizers. The I. L. D., not knowing of her connections, and unable to get to the boys directly, accepted the offer.

More Proof of Dastardly Role of N. A. A. C. P. Leaders

Mrs. Hook, however, told the boys that all these comforts were sent them by the N. A. A. C. P., and used the visits to attempt to undermine the I. L. D. and break the boys' solidarity. But when she called on them to break with the I. L. D. and accept a lynch lawyer provided by the N. A. A. C. P. and the lynchers, the boys turned over her letter to the I. L. D. and denounced her.

Mrs. Hook was exposed before the masses, and fled the city.

Following this came the direct use of the prison authorities, especially Deputy Warden Dan Rogers who used and are still using physical torture and murder threats in an attempt to force the boys to accept N. A. A. C. P. "defence."

Pickens Mocks at Boys' Faith in Workers.

When William Pickens, accompanied by three local lynchers, visited the boys to try to persuade them to denounce the I. L. D., he mocked them when they stated they had faith in the workers of the world and expected to get out.

An investigation by the I. L. D revealed a farther plot, in which Taggart had purposely tried to prevent the restoration of Montgomery's sight, hoping he would go blind and give the N. A. A. C. P betrayers opportunity to charge this to the I. L. D. Glasses were immediately obtained for Olen Montgomery, and the I. L. D. could find none of the difficulties Taggart had held up as excuses. He had stated that he could find no optician who would examine Montgomery's eyes. But the first optician the I. L. D. representative went to readily agreed to do so, and the glasses were provided.

Judge Grants Appeal in Scottsboro Case

Defender 5-19-34

NEW YORK, May 18.—Judge W. W. Callahan has finally signed the bill of exceptions in the appeals taken by the International Labor Defense against lynch sentences of death against Heywood Patterson and Clarence Norris, Scottsboro boys, it was announced by the I. L. D. here last week.

This means that all papers in the appeal must be filed with the state supreme court by May 24, it was explained. This filing, including printing of the briefs and bills, will entail a cost of $4,000, the I. L. D. said.

An appeal to all organizations to assist in collection of this huge sum, which must be in the hands of the I. L. D. by May 23 at the latest, has been issued by William L. Patterson, national I. L. D. secretary.

He called on all those friends of the Scottsboro defense who have been collecting funds and turning them over to the I. L. D., the only organization which is defending the boys, to intensify their collections and rush all money taken in to the I. L. D., room 430, 80 E. 11th St.

At the same time he warned against racketeers who have been collecting thousands of dollars for Scottsboro, but have not turned over this money. All those making contributions, he said, should make sure that their money is going to the Scottsboro defense.

Montgomery, Ala. Journal
May 17, 1934

Scottsboro Case May Be Delayed

There is a possibility that arguments in the Scottsboro case on appeal from the Morgan circuit court will not be heard by the Alabama supreme court before its fall term.

Certificates of appeal in the cases of Heywood Paterson and Clarence Norris, the two negroes sentenced to die at the last trial in Decatur, have reached the court, but Gen. R. F. Ligon, supreme court clerk, has written defense counsel that next week will be the last call and unless the records are filed by then the cases will have to be carried over.

Counsel for the negroes is understood to be working on the voluminous records now and has indicated that it will require several more days before they can be completed.

This is the second appeal taken to the Alabama supreme court in the case.

ILD SPENT HUGE SUM FOR ALABAMA BOYS

NEW YORK (CNA)—That the International Labor Defense has spent $2526.52 more on the Scottsboro case than it has received in contributions from all sources, was brought to light when that organisation last week made public a complete accounting of income and expenditures from April 11, 1931, to August 31, 1934. The Central Audit Bureau of New York certified the accounts.

12-20-34

For its conduct of the Scottsboro cases, the I.L.D. has received in contributions $61,825.23. It has sept on the case $64.351.75

Contributions came from the following sources: through the I.L.D. (by collections, contributions and out of its own funds) $47,235.66; from the N.A.A.C.P., $3,482.20; from the American Civil Liberties Union, $2,713.05; from the National Committee for the Defense of Political Prisoners, $8,394.32.

Lynchings - 1934
Legal Punishment for Rape.

Alabama

4676

OUSTED GROUP DIDN'T APPEAL CASE IN TIME

Amsterdam News

Leibowitz Prepares for a Bitter Fight in U. S. Court

10-27-34

New York, N.Y.

Because of the failure of International Labor Defense attorneys to appeal in time the second Decatur conviction of Haywood Patterson, Scottsboro defendant, the Supreme Court of the United States may find itself powerless to save the youth from the electric chair when his case comes before that body soon, it was charged yesterday.

The charges of double negligence in the Patterson case were made against the I. L. D. by Attorneys Samuel S. Leibowitz and George W. Chamlee of Chattanooga in an interview at the former's offices here at 225 Broadway yesterday. The two attorneys are now in full charge of the legal defense and appeals for all nine of the youthful Scottsboro defendants.

Not only did the I. L. D. lawyers jeopardize Patterson's life by failing to appeal his second Decatur conviction in time, twenty-three days after the verdict, the new defense counsel charged, but they also failed to file a bill of exceptions in the case until four days after the legally specified ninety day period had expired. This failure was cited by the Alabama Supreme Court recently in refusing to consider the appeal of Patterson for a new trial. The same argument is expected to be used by the prosecution when the case comes before the U. S. Supreme Court.

Mrs. Patterson May Sue.

Informed by her attorneys of the state of affairs in her son's case, Mrs. Janie Patterson, who arrived here Sunday to enlist aid for the new defense of the Scottsboro boys, informed The Amsterdam News yesterday that she would file legal charges of malfeasance against Joseph R. Brodsky, I. L. D. chief counsel, and Osmond K. Fraenkel, appeal attorney, if the U. S. Supreme Court finds itself unable to consider the case because of the Decatur appeal neglect. Mrs. Patterson also made public letters she had written to the two I. L. D. lawyers telling them of her intention.

In the meanwhile, Attorneys Leibowitz and Chamlee were busy yesterday perfecting plans for the U. S. Supreme Court appeals in the cases of Patterson and Clarence Norris, who were convicted the third and second times respectively at Decatur last December. The I. L. D. attorneys also failed to file a notice of appeal in time for Norris, but a bill of exceptions in his case was filed a few days before the ninety day period expired. Norris' conviction was upheld by the Alabama Supreme Court, when it refused to even consider Patterson's case.

Seeks John W. Davis.

In order to overcome the handicap occasioned by the failure of the I. L. D. to properly appeal Patterson's case, the new defense was trying yesterday to secure the services of John W. Davis, former Democratic presidential nominee, for argument before the U. S. Supreme Court. After a conference with Attorney Leibowitz, Mr. Davis expressed interest in the case and requested a copy of the papers in the case before giving his decision. The former presidential nominee was examining these papers yesterday.

Amsterdam News

Attorney Leibowitz was designated as sole counsel for all nine of the boys last Saturday when he received notarized powers of attorney from all the defendants themselves in Kilby and the Birmingham prisons. At the same time, the defendants wrote Governor B. M. Miller of Alabama and asked him to bar all "visitors from the Communist lawyers who have been sending their agents here and have our minds bewildered."

10-27-34

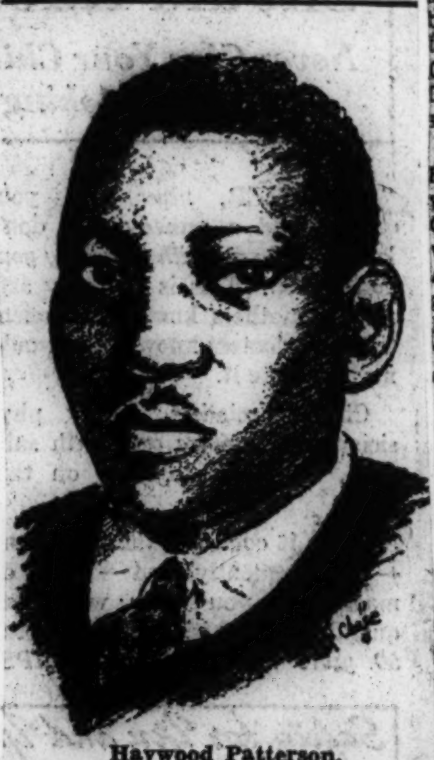
This action on the part of the youths is believed to have ended the period of controversy in which the I. L. D. has made repeated claims that the boys had reversed themselves and decided to remain with the I. L. D. The youthful defendants placed themselves in the sole care of Mr. Leibowitz three weeks ago, when the New York lawyer threatened to withdraw from the case unless the I. L. D., and the Communists were forced out completely.

Reds Plan Fight.

That the Communists and the I. L. D. intended to continue their fight on the new defense of the boys was indicated Monday when the groups brought Mrs. Ada Wright and Mrs. Ida Norris, mothers of three of the youths, to New York City. The mothers were accompanied by Attorney Ben J. Davis, Jr., Communist lawyer who with Louise Thompson, official of the International Workers Order, tried to get the parents and youths to remain under the banner of the I. L. D.

The ousted group was scheduled to hold a mass meeting yesterday (Friday) at Rockland Palace as a reception for Mrs. Wright and Mrs. Norris. Attorney Leibowitz however, made public yesterday two letters received from Clarence Norris and Roy Wright, since the arrival of their mothers, here telling him that their parents had visited them in prison before leaving but had not been able to make them change back to the I. L. D. Both youths, as well as the seven others, reiterated their sole allegiance to Mr. Leibowitz.

May Be Doomed



Haywood Patterson.

Back New Defense.

I. L. D. representatives were turned down flatly by the Interdenominational Preachers Meeting of New York and vicinity at Salem M. E. Church Monday when they appealed for the ministers to form a united front with them and attend yesterday's meeting. Members of the group pointed out that they had contributed $248 to the I. L. D., when it was in charge of the case, but announced that they would co-operate in the future with the American Scottsboro Committee, a new organization of churchmen and laymen which is now planning a nationwide drive for funds to support the defense directed by Attorneys Leibowitz and Chamlee.

Further support was promised the American Scottsboro Committee, of which Dr. George E. Haynes is temporary chairman, Monday by the Baptist ministers of New York City and New Jersey after listening to an appeal from Mrs. Patterson who was brought before the group meeting of the ministers in Union Baptist Church, Orange, N. J., by William H. Davis, general manager of The Amsterdam News.

After a meeting at the Russell Sage Foundation Monday afternoon at which Attorneys Leibowitz and Chamlee adressed fifty prominent white and Negro members of the American Scottsboro Committee, the group opened headquarters at 289 Fourth avenue and continued to work on the perfection of a national organization.

The nine Scottsboro defendants were convicted in 1931 of the rape of Victoria Price and Ruby Bates, two white women hoboes on a freight train in Alabama. The United States Supreme Court reversed the conviction and death sentence. Ruby Bates later recanted her story in a second trial, but Patterson and Norris were again convicted.

New York Herald-Tribune

OCT 11 1934

Leibowitz Ousts Communists in Scottsboro Case

Acting for 9 Negro Boys and Church, Counsel Assails I.L.D. for 'Racket' Tactics

Charges Red Exploitation

Brodsky Lays 'Anger' to Disappointment, Sees Fight

Samuel S. Leibowitz, of 225 Broadway, counsel for the Negro defendants in the celebrated Scottsboro case during their last two trials, announced last night that he would be in complete charge of the defense hereafter, at the request of the defendants and of a group of Negro clergymen in New York. He issued a denunciation to the press of the International Labor Defense and of the Communist party, which have been active in defending the nine Negro boys since their arrest at Point Rock, Ala., early in 1931.

His statement was a sequel to the arrest of two Communist lawyers, in Nashville, Tenn., September 30, charged with having tried to bribe Victoria Price, of Huntsville, Ala., the girl hobo who has charged the Negro boys with criminal assault while on a freight train.

Mr. Leibowitz, who announced on October 2 that he would withdraw from the case unless the Communists were removed from it, said last night that he was ousting the Communists, after consultation with the Negro clergy, the defendants, and the parents of two of them. The Communists, he asserted, have from the start of the case exploited the defendants in order to raise funds for red activities, and by stirring up trouble between black and white in the South have jeopardized the Negroes' lives.

Shows Power of Attorney

He displayed statements showing that he had received the power of attorney from Heywood Patterson and Clarence Norris, the two defendants convicted and sentenced to death at the last trials in Decatur, Ala., and from Ada Wright, the mother of Andy and Roy Wright, minors, two other defendants now under death sentence.

He also made public a letter he had addressed to Joseph R. Brodsky, counsel for the International Labor Defense, who originally engaged him to defend the boys, though without fee, in which he asked that all papers necessary to carry the cases of Patterson and Norris to the United States Supreme Court be turned over to him.

At Mr. Brodsky's offices, 100 Fifth Avenue, Mr. Brodsky said he had "never been so disappointed in any one as in Sam Leibowitz." He said that Mr. Leibowitz had been angry ever since being informed that the International Labor Defense was again obtaining the services of Walter H. Pollak, the constitutional lawyer who obtained a reversal of the first Scottsboro verdict against the Negroes, to carry the case once more to the highest tribunal.

He attributed Mr. Leibowitz's move to disappointment at not being called upon to argue the case himself.

Fight Is Promised

At the offices of the International Labor Defense, 80 East Eleventh Street, it was said that Mr. Leibowitz might think for the moment that he was in charge of the case, but that "the last shot has not been fired by the I. L. D." Spokesmen for the organization recalled that once before the defendants and the I. L. D. had been estranged, and that the I. L. D. had taken charge of the case away from the Association for the Advancement of Colored People.

As a fight by the Communists to win back their clients was looming the Rev. Richard E. Bolden, of the First Emanuel Church, 105 West 130th Street, speaking for the Interdenominational Association of Preachers holding pulpits in more than twenty of the most influential Negro churches in New York, announced that the association would work with Mr. Leibowitz. He, too, issued a public statement telling how a resolution passed by the clerglymen had criticized persons "using illegal means" in the cause of justice, or "propagandizing" at the expense of nine Negro boys in trouble.

Beyond the formal statement by Mr. Leibowitz that he was taking over the case was an informal charge that the Communists had made a "three-year meal ticket" of the Scottsboro case, raising large sums in all the Negro churches of the country by frequent collections. They had taken collections also at radical meetings in this country and in Europe. This fund-raising drive for Communist activities, Mr. Leibowitz said, was attended by the hippodroming of the parents of some of the defendants, and of Ruby Bates, the girl witness who said at the first trial of the Negroes she had been attacked, but who later recanted and said the Negroes were innocent.

In this connection it was explained that Mrs. Ada Wright, who has now asked Mr. Leibowitz to take complete charge of the case for her sons, was taken to Europe by the Communists and made a tour of radical meetings there, raising money for the defense. Ruby Bates was recently touring in New Jersey, and Mrs. Norris, mother of Clarence, was recently reported in the Southwest on a similar drive.

Reports had come to him, Mr. Leibowitz said, indicating that the receipts from three years of campaigning might have run up as high as $250,000.

A representative of the I. L. D. denied yesterday that the receipts of the campaign to free the Scottsboro boys had run to any such sum as Mr. Leibowitz suggested. "We have a two-fisted defense," he said, "one fist first being the legal defense and the other being mass pressure. Compared with what has been spent for the Sacco-Vanzetti and the Tom Mooney cases the Scottsboro case has cost almost nothing. The legel defense may have run to $55,000. There is an accounting made to associations contributing to it. The complete defense, including pressure, has certainly not cost more than $125,000."

Chattanooga, Tenn.
NEWS

AUG 6 [illegible]

A Scottsboro Echo

LEADING Negroes of the country now ~~realize~~ that the International Labor Defense used the Scottsboro case for its own propaganda. George S. Schuyler, well-known Negro editor of Pittsburgh, remarkes laconically, "Sam Leibowitz has the reputation; the defendants have the death cell." In the *American Spectator*, Schuyler's views are printed.

The Montgomery *Advertiser* carries a summary of the article, as follows:

In the August issue of the *American Spectator*, George S. Schyler, Negro newspaper man of Pittsburgh, makes the charge that the Scottsboro boys have been Jonahed. "The boys have been afflicted with Samuel Leibowitz and chained to the Communist chariot. A clever Southern or Northern white lawyer might have saved them," he thinks, "as a clever Southern Negro saved the black sharecroppers of Elaine, Ark., sentenced to die on the more serious charge of conspiring to massacre the whites right after the World War. If the Scottsboro boys do not suffer the fate of Sacco and Vanzetti, they will probably rot in prison like Mooney, a tragic memorial to megalomania, negrophobia and propaganda."

"Leibowitz," he continued, "is serving the Scottsboro boys without fee, and regardless of what their fate may be, the effort is far from being a total loss to him. It has lifted him from the category of the modest little Manhattan lawyer to that of an internationally famous attorney, a defender of the oppressed, a hero of the embattled proletariat."

"A really shrewd lawyer," Schuyler points out, "not intent on hogging the limelight, would have first built up good will, respect and admiration. Instead, Leibowitz proceeded to make the case a sectional as well as a racial one by challenging the fitness of the Alabama courts and attacking the exclusion of Negroes from juries. Even worse," he charges, "was the senseless parading of the past of the two women. Leibowitz only strengthened determination to fry the blackamoors."

"It is tragic that Communist trickery and bigotry eliminated Clarence Darrow from the case," says Schuyler. "He would have sized up the situation realistically, dumped the methods and mannerisms found successful in Manhattan courtrooms. Then," he thinks, "the accused would each have been given a long sentence, as is the custom in order to save face, and, when the crackers had gone back to their corn liquor, the boys would have been turned out on the street. It has happened scores of times before. It would have happened in the Scottsboro case, but," reminds the *American Spectator* contributor, Sam Leibowitz was the chief counsel. He has the reputation; the lads have the death cell."

We pointed out repetedly that the entrance of the I. L. D. could not but involve the Scottsboro case in propaganda. Every effort has been made to make a cause celebre of the trial of the ignorant Negroes. Efforts of the bona fide Negro welfare organizations to take charge of the case were defeated, and Sam Leibowitz stirred up prejudice and busily secured every ounce of I. L. D. propaganda possible. As a result Sam Leibowitz secured the fame, or notoriety, and the defendants have the death cell.

MONTGOMERY, ALA.
ADVERTISER

OCT 26 1934

LIEBOWITZ ASKS CENSORSHIP FOR CLIENTS' GUESTS

But Miller Declines Task Of Keeping I. L. D. Away From Samuel's Seven Boys

WILL NOT EVEN SUGGEST IT TO OFFICIAL CAPTORS

Gov. Miller declined yesterday to grant the request of Samuel S. Liebowitz, of New York, principal counsel for the seven negro "Scottsboro" case defendants, that he issue executive orders barring all International Labor Defense, Communist or other visitors from calling on or interviewing the negroes and reserving that privilege to Liebowitz, his accredited representatives, George W. Chamlee, of Nashville, Tenn., 'associated' with him in the defense and the parents of the negroes who are now internationally known as "the Scottsboro boys."

The request made by Liebowitz, contained in a personal letter to the governor, asked for the exclusion of other visitors not only from the two defendants now at Kilby Prison, but also to the other five confined in the Jefferson County jail at Birmingham. In his letter he said he holds power of attorney for each of them, and that they have severed all relations with the I. L. D., and the Communists. The "boys," he said have been annoyed by visits from Communists and their agents, and have informed him they do not wish such annoyance from "this element."

Looking Out for 'Boys.'

In view of this information, he declared, he was soliciting the chief executive's aid through issuance of orders to the wards at Kilby and the Jefferson County jail, so that the "desires" of the "boys" may be met.

Gov. Miller replied that the convict department has charge of the prisoners at Kilby, and the sheriff of Jefferson County has jurisdiction over prisoners in the county jail. "I would not," he wrote Liebowitz, "care to give any instructions or make any requests of officials at either place as to their permitting or not permitting visitors to see the prisoners."

Text of the letter from Liebowitz to the governor, follows:

Liebowitz's Letter.

"I hold the power of attorney of all of the defendants in the Scottsboro case. They have definitely severed all relations with the I. L. D. and the Communists.

"Unfortunately, however, I have been informed that attempts have been made—which have been successful—to annoy these defendants by visits from the Communists and their agents, in an endeavor to induce the boys to stay with them. The boys inform me that they do not wish to be annoyed by the repeated visits of this element, and I am soliciting your aid toward the end that orders may be issued to the wardens of Kilby and Jefferson County jail, so that their desires may be carried out.

"I want to thank you for your kind courtesy to my secretary in facilitating his visit to Kilby Prison a few days ago, and for the many courtesies that you have extended to me in this case.

"The boys would like to have it on record that they desire no visits from anyone other than Gen. Chamlee, of Chattanooga, their parents, and myself or my accredited representatives."

Answering this communication, the governor said:

Governor's Reply.

"Your letter of the 22nd with reference to my giving instructions as to who may and who may not see the prisoners in Kilby Prison and in the jail in Jefferson County, referred to by you as the Scottsboro boys, has been received.

"Replying thereto I beg to advise as follows: The sheriff of Jefferson County has jurisdiction over the prisoners in the Jefferson County jail and decides under what circumstances they will be permitted to see visitors.

"The convict department has charge under the law, of the prisoners in Kilby Prison.

"I would not care to give any instructions or make any requests of the officials at either place as to their permitting or not permitting visitors to see the prisoners."

I. L. D. ATTORNEY BACK TO GOTHAM

News

Schwab Reported Turned Down By Scottsboro 'Boys'

11-16-34

Irving Schwab, International Labor Defense attorney, was reported en route back to New York Thursday after two apparently unsuccessful attempts to regain favor with seven Negroes held in County Jail here in the Scottsboro case who renounced the I. L. D. in favor of Samuel Leibowitz recently.

Schwab, accompanied by C. B. Powell, Birmingham lawyer, interviewed the Scottsboro Negroes in their cells Tuesday and Wednesday. He announced they had given him no indication that they "did not want the assistance of the I. L. D.," but admitted the Negroes held in Birmingham want to retain Leibowitz.

Birmingham

Schwab announced Heywood Patterson and Clarence Norris, Negroes, held in Kilby Prison under sentence of death on charges of attacking Mrs. Victoria Price on a freight train near Paint Rock, Ala., have discarded Leibowitz and have signed retainers for I. L. D. attorneys. The retainers were signed Tuesday, it was reported.

The seven Negroes held in Birmingham recently told Leibowitz in the presence of newspaper men that they wanted him to represent them and declared they were "through with the I. L. D." They made the same statement to wardens Wednesday, it was reported.

Break in the ranks of defense attorneys in the Scottsboro case came several weeks ago when it was announced in New York that Leibowitz had severed all connections with the "radical elements" associated with the defense.

SCOTTSBORO CASE

New York, November 23—Recent news reports stating that lawyers of the International Labor Defense had filed papers in the case of Clarence Norris in the United States Supreme Court and secured a stay of execution for Patterson and Norris, brought numerous inquiries to the office of The American Scottsboro Committee, 289 Fourth Avenue, today. In an interview, Dr. George E. Haynes, acting chairman of the Committee, said: "The American Scottsboro Committee, Inc. has no statement to make at this time except to ask the public to suspend judgment about legal representation in these cases until the courts speak."

[illegible]

Lynchings - 1934

Legal Punishment for Rape.

Alabama

4677

Huntsville, Ala., Register
November 14, 1934

Suggestion That Fund Be Raised For Mrs. Victoria Price Receiving Favor

Courage has its reward, and this time it is up to the people who admire the courage of Mrs. Victoria Price in refusing to accept a bribe to repudiate her story of a criminal attack on her by the eight defendants in the "Scottsboro case," to prove that it does; in other words that the proper time a fund will be raised through popular subscription for this unfortunate victim of circumstances.

The Daily Register about ten days ago went on record as favoring such a movement, and pledged itself to start it, in the event no one else did within the near future. This pledge we renew.

Evidently we are not alone in this thought, for along comes Benjamin Bloodworth, esteemed editor of The Decatur Daily, saying:

"Some weeks ago a reader of The Daily suggested in a communication to this newspaper that a fund be raised in behalf of Mrs. Victoria Price, the principal witness for the prosecution in the Scottsboro case.

"This reader felt impelled to take the action he did because of circumstances surrounding the case. Mrs. Price is a mill worker in Huntsville and in addition to supporting herself is said to have been shouldering the responsibility of supporting another member of her family, obviously a difficult task. The defendants in the case, although remaining in jail for several years, nevertheless, have been given money for tobacco and Ruby Bates, the other prosecuting witness in the first trials, has been making public appearances, has written her life's story for a New York ewspaper and given every indication of having been placed in a position to obtain a comfortable living as result of her connection with the celebrated case.

"A short time afterward, Sheriff Ben Giles, of Madison county, stated a number of people had spoken to him about raising a fund for Mrs. Price, this announcement being made shortly after the arrest of three men accused of having attempted to bribe her to recant her testimony.

"The Daily does not know what success has been met by Sheriff Giles, but it is significant that the Huntsville Register extends editorial praise of the manner in which Mrs. Price has met the unfortunate episodes in her life and declares that if purse is not raised by public subscription within a reasonable time, it plans a movement of its own.

"The Register says in part:

"We've had something in our system for a long time, and out it must come.

"A word of encouragement, we feel, is due to Mrs. Victoria Price, principal wit- s for the state in the two and a half ears old 'Scottsboro case.' She has endured a lot, and is to be admired for the courage she has exhibited. * * *

"Victoria is a cotton mill worker, which is an honorable job for her to follow. She has needed money for years, and $1.000 or $1,500 should and did look mighty good to her. It would to any other person in her circumstances.

"It makes our blood boil, when we think that any person should attempt to bribe her. Sol Kon and Dan Swift, whose cases in which they were charged with having attempted to bribe Mrs. Price, were before the inferior court last week, were bound over to the grand jury. If these men are innocent, they should be acquitted, but, if guilty, should be given the maximum sentence. * * *

"Victoria Price saw Ruby Bates, who first testified she, too, was attacked by the nine negro defendants, leave Huntsville as a cotton mill employe and step into a semi-luxurious position. * * * All of this must have made an impression upon her (Victoria), and money to her must have been tempting. It is all the more reason why a kindly word should be said on her behalf. She overcame a human weakness—a tendency to follow the line of least resistance—to accept money in trade for a few words; she had the courage to stick to her story, and continued to work in the cotton mill, when she might have today everything else she would want.

"This courageous woman is entitled to a break. She has suffered much, and it is time that life for her were made easier. A purse of money, raised by popular subscription, would not be ami-

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SPRINGFIELD, MASS.
MORNING UNION
AUG 18 1934

NEGRO WOMEN URGED TO ASSIST SCOTTSBORO BOYS

Northeastern Federation Has Election of Officers at Final Session; Hits Segregation.

A plea to "brighten the corner of the Scottsboro boys" by contributing $100 to a general fund of $30,000 which is being raised to bring their case before the Supreme Court was made by Mrs. M. C. Simpson of Boston, chairman of the committee on lynching, at the final session of the Northeastern Federation of Women's Club, Inc., at St. John's Church last night.

"Who knows but what the same fate awaits some of our boys?" she asked. Unless the Supreme Court intervenes, Hayhood Patterson and Clarence Norris will die Aug. 31.

Resolutions to free the Negro race from the restrictions which bind it were presented before the federation last night. Chief among these were condemnation of the segregation sign at the new Narragansett race track, the continual holding of the Scottsboro boys in prison and the daily torture accorded them and the Federal segragation of colored American employes in different governmental departments the resolution declaring this policy "un-American, unjust and unconstitutional and an encouragement in scattering prejudice all over the country."

At the legislative and interracial conference at the evening session under the leadership of Mrs. Harriet T. Jones of Boston the place of the Negro in society was discussed.

"If we are going to be represented in interracial committees we must have people who truly represent our group instead of those who have selfish purposes in view," she said. "Our job now is to convince the white woman that we are just the same as she except in color. The white man is easier convert."

The Auditorium, which was practically filled, cheered loudly when Mrs. M. C. Simpson, in discussing the legislative program, flayed Mayor Mansfield of Boston for his action in ousting all Negro workers from the City Hall. She pointed out the importance of watching bills in state and national legislative bodies and pleaded with members of her race to get on the voting list before the fall election.

Mrs. M. Moselle Griffin of Philadelphia said that over a $1,000,000 was going into the hands of the Nergo people in that city because they had won the friendship and confidence of those in high business and political offices. Mrs. Bessie Payne of New York added that the NRA had opened up "white colar" jobs for many Negro workers in New York, New Jersey and Massachusetts. "The job will not come to you," she declared, "you must get out and fight for it."

At the afternoon session Mrs. Minnie T. Wright of Boston was elected president, defeating Mrs. Elizabeth Carter Brooks of New Bedford who had held the office for 24 consecutive years. Parliamentary rules were waived to allow Mrs. Brooks to run for the office of president although she was unable to be present owing to the death of her husband. There were 68 delegates voting at the election.

The following officers were elected: President, Mrs. Minnie T. Wright of Boston; vice-presidents, Miss Susie F. Jones of Boston, Florence Lopez of Providence, Mrs. Eileen Wooders of Watertown, Conn., Mrs. Lucretia Freeman of Brooklyn, Mrs. Mabel Latney of Philadelphia, Mrs. Ida E. Brown of Jersey City; recording secretary, Mrs. Grace Jackson, Washington; assistant recording secretary, Mrs. Verna Canada, Woburn; financial secretary, Mrs. Mary Luck, Boston; assistant financial secretary, Miss Frankie Taylor, Boston; treasurer, Miss S. Ella Wilson, Worcester; chairman of executive board, Mrs. Bessie Payne, New York city; organizer, Miss Alice Thompson, Brooklyn; auditor, Mrs. Luna Babcock, Springfield; chaplain, Mrs. Alice S. Mapp, Brooklyn; parliamentarian, Mrs. Charlotte Bell, Brooklyn.

Department heads: Education, Mrs. Adah W. Talbert, Brooklyn; economics, Mrs. Laura Hall Collins, Brooklyn; legislation, Mrs. Harriet A. L. Jones, Boston; Phyllis Wheatley Home, Mrs. L. K. Brown, New Haven; health, Mrs. Sally Bronson, Springfield; welfare, Mrs. Rose Brown, Boston; fine arts, Mrs. Dora Coleman, Brooklyn; chairman of the suppression of lynching, Mrs. M. C. Simpson, Boston; junior department, Mrs. Nannie E. Waltham, Boston.

Next year's convention will be held in Boston.

Scottsboro Negro Rally Defies Klan

Daily Worker

By Harry Connor

GLASSBORO, N. J., Dec. 5.—Breaking through police and Ku Klux Klan terror in Southern New Jersey, more than 400 Negro workers and farmers held a spirited Scottsboro protest rally in the countryside near here, despite threats of riot and violence made by a united front of Negro misleaders and Ku Kluxers.

12-16-34

New York

The Negro villages, "80 Acres" and the "Lawns," in Gloucester borough in the heart of one of the most notorious Klan, counties in New Jersey, Gloucester County took the first step in breaking through the political domination of a handful of corrupt politicians and Negro misleaders who for years worked hand in hand with the employers in subduing the Negro masses here with the methods of Southern lynch terror.

Under the fighting slogan of "Defend the Scottsboro Boys," symbols of the brutal oppression of an entire Negro nation, it has been proved once more that the fight for the lives and freedom of the nine innocent boys is inseparably linked with the struggle for Negro liberation.

Sharp Discrimination

In the short existence of these two Negro farm communities, there is a shocking record of discrimination, jim-crowism, lynch threats, Klan raids and flaming crosses—endless oppression. For years these communities have paid taxes to the borough and have received nothing in return, by way of water supply, sewers, paved streets, etc. Street lights can be found only along two or three roads that cut through the outskirts of these neglected communities, with a population of about 800. The roads are dirt roads and have not been repaired for years. One of the largest gas plants in South Jersey is located only a mile away, and yet no gas lines have been laid to these Negro communities. There have been many frame-ups of Negroes in the courts of this area. Negro families on relief receive at least 60 per cent less than white families of the same size.

Daily Worker

12-8-34

New York

Until recently these communities have been without militant leadership. Last Summer, however, a local of the Agricultural and Cannery Workers Industrial Union was organized in the vicinity and during the Seabrook Farm strike the local developed struggles among the bean pickers and was successful in unifying the Negro and Italian farm workers. Later, the bosses succeeded in breaking this unity by favoring the Italians. Today, however, the Italian farm workers can see that in the end their wages were cut as a result of the destruction of the local.

Klan Threatens

But on the "Acres" there remained the local's Defense Committee of the International Labor Defense, which continued to function, devoting its activities to the defense of the Scottsboro boys and of the Seabrook farm workers jailed for strike activities and slated for trial soon.

This committee made arrangements for the Scottsboro rally and invited Ruby Bates, star Scottsboro defense witness, to address the meeting. Permission was obtained from the school board for the use of the school house on the "Acres." This permission was later revoked, due to the opposition of Negro misleaders and Klan elements, who raised the pretext that the presence of Ruby Bates would lead to "riot and violence."

The Committee decided to hold the meeting in front of the school house, with the result that more than 400 persons attended and pledged their full support to the Scottsboro defense, unanimously denouncing the local politicians and School Board and adopting protest resolutions to be sent to President Wilson, Governor B. M. Miller of Alabama and the U. S. Supreme Court.

The committee, learning of plans by the Klan to do violence to Ruby Bates decided not to jeopardize the safety of this important Scottsboro witness, and provided other speakers.

REVIEW OF DEATH VERDICT OPPOSED

News

No Proof Negroes Kept Off Juries In Scottsboro Case Given, View

12-8-34

MONTGOMERY, Ala.—(AP)—Briefs opposing a review of the death verdict of Clarende Norris, Scottsboro case defendant, by the United States Supreme Court had been printed Friday and Alabama authorities said copies would be served on both Samuel S. Leibowitz and Osmond K. Fraenkel, New York attorneys, each claiming to represent the Negro.

Thomas S. Lawson, assistant to Atty. Gen. Knight, announced Thursday night the briefs would stress the point that no proof had been established that Negroes were systematically excluded from the grand and trial juries in the trial of the Negro, as contended by the defense in its plea for a review.

The state contends, Lawson said that the burden of proving this point fell on the defense and declared that no evidence had been introduced to show that Negroes had not been on the jury rolls.

The case grew out of an alleged criminal attack by nine Negroes on Mrs. Victoria Price and Ruby Bates aboard a freight train in Jackson County, Ala., near Scottsboro, in 1931.

There have been seven trials in the case, Norris being sentenced to die along with Heywood Patterson at Decatur, Ala., on a change of venue from Jackson County. Miss Bates repudiated her former testimony in a previous trial at Decatur.

The seven other defendants are in Jefferson County Jail awaiting trial, pending outcome of the Norris appeal to the United States Supreme Court.

The defendants have switched counsel several times in recent weeks, naming Leibowitz as their representative one time and changing to the International Labor Defense at another, and so on.

Albany-Decatur, Ala. Daily
November 17, 1934

The other day a football game was played in Scottsboro, the unusual features being described by Parker Campbell's Jackson County Sentinel as follows:

"If some of our Yankee critics could have visited Scottsboro Thursday afternoon, and seen a big crowd of whites and negroes hugely enjoying a real classy football game between two colored teams—Scottsboro and South Pittsburgh—played on the Jackson County High school grounds, they would have had a rude shock to their idea of intolerance and oppression between the races here.

"The high school team passed up a practice session in order that the colored boys could have a good ground to play on, and the white people gave big patronage to the occasion.

"Scottsboro is the most widely criticized city in the world along racial lines, yet it probably has as harmonious relations between the races as any place in the world."

The difficulty is, Mr. Campbell, a good many of the "Yankee critics" would not have understood the scene had they witnessed it. Not because their eye-sight is bad but because their minds are warped, some of them as a result of propaganda which has been fed them and others because to act otherwise might separate them from an opportunity to make some easy money.

Decatur, like Scottsboro, has come in for a large share of criticism as a result of the Scottsboro case, but at least we have never stooped so low that we attempted to make money out of the misfortunes of the principals—white or black. We wish we could sa yas much for those who have been most vitriolic in their criticism of our state and community.

SCOTTSBORO UNITY ASKED OF PUBLISHER

Daily Worker

Davis Promises To Give Answer on Proposal Next Week

12-7-34

New York

A delegation from the National Scottsboro-Herndon Committee yesterday visited William H. Davis, publisher and owner of the Amsterdam News and a leading figure in Leibowitz's attempts to drive the International Labor Defense out of the Scottsboro case, and forced him to promise to consider their proposal of united actions for the nine Negro boys. He promised to give an answer next Tuesday.

The delegation also made him say that he would retract his telegrams to Haywood Patterson in which he said that the I. L. D. was bulldozing the mothers.

Mothers in Delegation

In the delegation were the Scottsboro mothers, Ada Wright, Viola Montgomery and Mrs. Norris; Steve Kingston of the District Committee of the Communist Party, Ben Davis William Fitzgerald, of the Harlem I. L. D.; Dr. James J. Jones, Dr. Arnold Donowa of the L. S. N. R. Mrs. Craik-Speed of Tennessee, and Samuel C. Patterson of the National Scottsboro-Herndon Committee.

Mr. Davis was evasive when the delegation pressed him to show the genuineness of his interest in the boys by joining in united actions to save their lives. He finally promised to give an answer on Tuesday.

He claimed that the case of Haywood Patterson was already lost. The delegation pointed out that if that was the opinion of Leibowitz's American Scottsboro Committee of which Mr. Davis is a leading member, then they had no business defending the boys. This is the argument of the Southern lynchers who try to stress the hopelessness of the case. It is the I. L. D. which does not despair, but which is intensifying its efforts to rescue the lads from death.

Tried to Hoodwink Mothers

Mr. Davis tried to persuade the Scottsboro mothers that they were following the wrong course. They answered that they were fully behind the I. L. D. The mothers said that anyone who wishes to save the boys should cooperate with the I. L. D.

Samuel C. Patterson, secretary of the National Scottsboro-Herndon Committee, announced yesterday that the American Scottsboro Committee had refused to meet for the purpose of working united actions in behalf of the boys. The latter group said that "our committee does not see the way clear for a conference at this time." The conference was to be between representatives of the two committees.

PROMINENT PASTOR IN SCOTTS. CASE

Guardian

New York, — Members of the audience cheered and applauded the action of the Rev. Dr. Thomas Harten of the Trinity Baptist Church of Brooklyn, when he announced at a mass meeting held on December 16 that he had broken with Samuel S. Leibowitz, and is now backing the fight for the Scottsboro boys. The Rev. Harten said that although he was a personal friend of Leibowitz, he felt that Leibowitz' tactics in the Scottsboro case would only result in betrayal of the boys. The meeting was held under the auspices of the Brooklyn Scottsboro-Herndon Action Committee.

12-29-34

Boston

The Rev. Matthews also spoke, signiying his eagerness to support the International Labor Defense.

The Rev. Harten, up to now one of Leibowitz' most prominent supporters, consented to serve on the Executive Committee of the Brooklyn Scottsboro-Herndon Action Committee and promised to organize a Ministerial Alliance in Greater New York in the interests of the boys.

Lynchings-1934
Legal Punishment for Rape.

Alabama

4678

Fisk University Students Meet Roosevelt With Demand for Action on Scottsboro Case

NASHVILLE, Tenn., Nov. 21.—On Saturday at noon, at one stage in his sweep through the South inspecting the Tennessee Valley Authority, President Roosevelt was met with a protest signed by 250 Students at Fisk University, demanding a stay of execution for the Scottsboro boys and an investigation of the lynching of Claude Neal in Florida. Dr. T. E. Jones, president of the University, handed him the protest as well as a statement from the National Scottsboro-Herndon Action Committee prepared by James W. Ford.

The presidential party was making its last stop in Nashville at Fisk University, listening to Negro spirituals sung by the student bodies of Fisk, Meharry Medical College and the Tennessee State Agricultural and Industrial College for Negroes.

Mr. Roosevelt's car drew up an hour and a half late before Jubilee Hall, the girls' dormitory, made famous by the well-known Jubilee Singers, who went out from Fisk more than a half century ago singing slave songs in order to raise funds to help build the school.

Jones Greets Roosevelt

President Jones of Fisk University, white, made a short speech of welcome after which the Scottsboro statement was handed to President Roosevelt. The Fisk choir sang "Done Made My Vow to the Lord" and "Ain't Gonna Study War No More," an old post-Civil War Negro spiritual. Mr. Roosevelt's sweet smile of agreement with the latter song's sentiment must have been feigned when he thought of his war program of vast expenditures and concentration of the whole governmental apparatus in preparation for war.

Only three days before at the White House two of the Scottsboro mothers in a delegation of prominent Negro and white citizens had been refused an audience by President Roosevelt. Mr. McIntyre received the delegation in the corridors of the White House, declaring: "You will never see the President."

Three songs, including "Populc Meus," were sung by the Fisk choir. These were followed by "Hand Me Down the Silver Trumpet, Gabriel," by the students of A. & I. college. The traditional rhythm of the Negro people was more evident in the singing of the agricultural students than in that of the reknowned Fisk singers. The students of Fisk at the present time are drawn largely from the more prosperous Negro families and have little contact with the feeling of the Negro masses which was not the case with the early Fisk students, while the students of A. & I. college come from poorer families and mostly from the backwoods of Tennessee.

Scottsboro Banner Raised

Before the final strains of the last song, James Weldon Johnson's so-called national Negro anthem, "Lift Every Voice and Sing," the presidential party began to move slowly away. Just as the President's car reached the turn of the driveway, a large banner was raised in full view of President Roosevelt. On it was inscribed, "MR. PRESIDENT: SAVE THE LIVES OF THE NINE SCOTTSBORO BOYS." Mr. Roosevelt tried to ignore the banner by continuously waving his hat to the singers, but Mrs. Roosevelt turned very red when she saw the sign.

Only a few of the assembled crowd, those on the left of the driveway, saw the banner.

Ford Gives Foes Statement

Just before the arrival of the presidential party, James W. Ford, a graduate of Fisk who had come directly from Washington representing the Scottsboro-Herndon Action Committee, rushed out to give President Jones the statement he had promised to hand to the President. It in part declares:

"Today you have come to Fisk University. Millions of Negro people who are persecuted daily in forms similar to that of the Scottsboro boys, watch you. They wait eagerly to see what you do or say here. They will judge your actions. We ask you, Mr. President, to state openly your position on the whole system of lynch terror. We ask you to use your power and bring to punishment the lynchers of Claude Neal. We ask you to use your power and have brought before Congress and passed the Bill of Civil Rights for Negroes. We ask you to use the precedent established by the late President Woodrow Wilson in the Tom Mooney case and immediately stay the execution of Haywood Patterson and Clarence Norris and to give complete freedom to all of the nine Scottsboro boys."

The president of the Student Council had met late Friday night in conference with James W. Ford and decided to draw up individual protest letters to the President, but because of the lateness of the hour it was decided to present the joint letter. The Student Council made a decision to send letters from individual students the following week to Roosevelt at Warm Springs, Ga. Mr. John Hope Franklin, president of the Student Council, is in charge of collecting the letters.

Shop Groups Name Delegates To Bronx Scottsboro Parley

Young Liberators Call City-wide Conference Sunday—Mother of Andy Wright To Speak

The Bronx County Scottsboro Conference this afternoon, 2 o'clock, at the Epworth Methodist Church, 834 Morris Avenue, Bronx, will be attended by many delegates from shops and special house committees, as well as unions, churches and other groups, the New York district of the International Labor Defense announced yesterday.

Contact with the shops and the organization of numerous house committees in support of the Scottsboro defense was credited by the I.L.D. to the Bronx Section of the Communist Party which was reported to have mobilized all its forces to support the conference which is called by the Provisional Scottsboro Committee of the Bronx.

Delegates' credentials have been received from International Bakers Union, Local No. 164, a Bronx local of the A. F. of L. Carpenters Union, and many other groups, it was announced.

Speakers at the conference include Rev. George Taylor, pastor of the Epworth Church, Rev. Valvira of the Thessalonian Church, Mrs. Ella Morgan, president of the Blue Bird Association, and Samuel Patterson, Secretary of the National Scottsboro-Herndon Action Committee. A feature of the conference will be the showing of a Scottsboro film prepared by the Film and Photo League.

City-Wide Youth Conference

Mrs. Ada Wright, Scottsboro mother, and other prominent figures in the fight for the lives and freedom of the Scottsboro boys, will speak tomorrow at the city-wide Scottsboro-Herndon Youth Conference at the Bronx Studio, 227 Lenox Avenue, in Harlem. The conference will begin at 2. p.m.

Called by the Young Liberators, the conference is endorsed by many organizations. Among those that have already announced their election of delegates are the Social Problems Club of the Union Theological Seminary, St. James Baptist Church, and several Harlem "Y" clubs. The conference promises to be the broadest and most important gathering of youth organizations on the Scottsboro and Angelo Herndon cases.

The organizing committee of the conference announced yesterday that the Harlem Branch of the Young Peoples Socialist League had refused to support the conference on the grounds that the City Central Committee of the Socialist Party has not yet decided whether it will support the National Scottsboro Action Committee, endorsed by the Scottsboro mothers, or the discredited American Scottsboro Committee set up by the renegade defense attorney, Samuel S. Leibowitz and white and Negro misleaders seeking to disrupt the defense fight for the boys. The Young Liberators declared they would continue their efforts to have the Y. P. S. L. join the conference.

SCOTTSBORO ACTION WEEK PLANS MADE

Daily Worker

National Protests Will Be Held Throughout the U. S. A.

11-23-34

FUND DRIVE PUSHED

New York

Big Conferences Set for Brooklyn and Bronx

Preparations for National Scottsboro Protest Week, Nov. 26 to Dec 2, and the raising of funds to defray expenses of the appeals for Haywood Patterson and Clarence Norris, two of the Scottsboro boys will be pushed at a United Front Scottsboro Conference, to be held in New Haven, Conn., Thursday evening, Nov. 22, at the Scottsboro Hall, 142 Dixwell Avenue. The conference will mark the official opening of the new Scottsboro Hall, a neighborhood workers' center.

Delegates to the conference have been elected by [illegible] organizations and Negro churches and the conference is expected to mark a new high level in the development of the united front fight for the lives and freedom of the nine boys and the rights of the Negro people.

In Brooklyn, New York City, this Friday evening, a Scottsboro-Herndon defense rally will be held at the Premier Palace, 505 Sutter Ave., Brownsville section, under the auspices of the Brownsvillee Section of the Young Communist League. Richard B. Moore, National Field Organizer of the International Labor Defense, will be the main speaker.

Plans were announced yesterday for a conference, Nov. 30, at the Carlton Y. M. C. A., 405 Carlton Ave., Brooklyn, for the defense of the Scottsboro boys, Angelo Herndon and Clyde Allen, Brooklyn Negro worker, framed up by the police as the mythical "Hammer Man" held responsible for attacks on several white women. Allen was declared guilty by an all-white jury, despite violent contradictions in the testimony of police and the alleged victims and the testimony of Allen's employer that he was at work at the time of one of the attacks with which he is charged.

The conference is being arranged by the Brooklyn Provisional Scottsboro-Herndon-Clyde Allen Action Committee, which has addressed an urgent appeal to all Brooklyn organizations and churches to support the action and strengthen the mass defense campaign which alone can free the Scottsboro boys and other victims of capitalist justice.

To Parade in Philadelphia

PHILADELPHIA, Nov. 21. — A mass demonstration and torch light parade will be held Friday evening, Nov. 23, to protest the Scottsboro lynch verdicts and demand the unconditional safe release of the Negro victims of the lynch verdicts.

The action, which is being organized by the West Philadelphia Branch of the League of Struggle for Negro Rights, will begin with an open-air meeting at 7 p. m. at 39th and Brown Streets.

With fully 750 organizations contacted by personal visits for support of the Bronx County Conference to be held this Saturday afternoon at the Epworth Church 834 Morris Ave., Bronx, the conference is expected to result in one of the broadest united front actions for the lives and freedom of the Scottsboro boys and the rights of the oppressed Negro people.

Davis to Speak in Yonkers

YONKERS, N. Y., Nov. 21.—Ben Davis, Jr., Editor of the Negro Liberator, will be the main speaker at a Scottsboro rally at the A. M. E. Zion Church, Irving Place, here, next Wednesday evening, Nov. 27. The rally is being organised by the Haywood Patterson Branch of the International Labor Defense.

Many Attorneys Seek Scottsboro Appeal Publicity

WASHINGTON, Dec. 4.—(AP)—A scramble developed between New York lawyers today as to who will appear before the Supreme Court as counsel for Clarence Norris and Haywood Patterson, Alabama negroes condemned for an attack on a white girl in the "Scottsboro case."

Norris and Patterson, scheduled to be executed February 8, asked the Supreme Court to set aside their convictions on the ground negroes were permitted to serve neither on the Grand Jury which indicted them nor the trial jury which found them guilty.

Osmond K. Fraenkel and Walter H. Pollak filed, on Nov. 17, a petition in the Norris case, assertedly on authorization obtained from the negro. The next day Samuel S. Leibowitz, the New York attorney who figured prominently in the sensational trials in Alabama, claimed to have authorization by Norris to represent him in the appeal.

Last Saturday Pollak and Fraenkel filed a petition for review in the Patterson case.

Meanwhile, Leibowitz was expected to ask the Supreme Court to substitute him as counsel in both cases. It was not known here whether he had obtained authorization from Patterson. Leibowitz has taken no action to bring the dispute officially to the attention of the court.

'Several Hundred Thousand Dollars'

The "liberal" magazines are still engaged in the trial of the "Scottsboro case." Long ago they convicted the State of Alabama and condemned it. They are now trying the issue between various sets of lawyers, all foreigners, as to title to defend these "martyrs" before the Supreme Court of the United States.

The point stressed in the latest appeal is whether negroes were included in the panel from which the jury was drawn in the circuit court that tried some of these negroes in the circuit court of Alabama. This is now the objective of the "drive" in progress by the Northern "liberals" against the customs and policies of Southern states in regard to the negroes, and it is a drive of power unsuspected in the South. For example, "The Nation," New York (of course for the prosecution of Alabama), observing that Leibowitz, one of the numerous foreign lawyers who have defended the Scottsboro negroes, has received no money for his work, adds that "several hundred thousand dollars have been raised for propaganda" in the case.

The sum of the matter is that outsiders have resolved to demolish the State of Alabama and thrust it out of the case. Their effort is to obtain a decision from the Federal Supreme Court that would revolutionize the trial of all cases in Southern states to which negroes are a party. They hope to tear down and reconstruct the Southern states' jury systems. Of all this most Southerners appear to be in drowsy ignorance.

The News and Courier has not tried the Scottsboro case. That is none of its business. It has no eager wish that these negroes be electrocuted, it is not concerned especially that any criminal not in South Carolina be punished if their States be of contrary opinion. The acquittal of Insull in Illinois is the affair of Illinois, and if New Jersey or New York exonerate Hauptmann, an alleged kidnaper and murderer, it will not be for us to rail against their juries. They are states, and it is their right to determine guilt or innocence or to array themselves as champions of the guilty if they choose.

These facts seem to be admitted in the Scottsboro case. Twenty or thirty negro hoboes were on a freight train in Alabama, and so were ten or fifteen white hoboes whom they drove from the train. Two white women of questionable reputation were left on the train and it is charged that they were criminally assaulted. What is likely to befall two white women in such circumstances may be conjectured.

Except as to its bearing on their credibility the character of the women is wholly irrelevant. If they were the victims of force their assailants are as guilty as if they had been the best of women. If white women are to be protected against vicious negroes in the South it is as necessary to punish assailants of low women as those of good women. If vicious negroes (or whites) be taught that they can assault one kind of women and escape punishment, the protection of other women is seriously impaired.

The conspicuous fact is that the Scottsboro case has been and is confined to the courts of Alabama. These accused men whom the Northern liberals have adopted and fondle, whom they affectionately describe as "the boys," as if they were pet pickaninnies, have not been mobbed. No attempt has been made to mob them. The "liberals" have assiduously lynched for three years the courts and the State of Alabama. "Several hundred thousand dollars have been raised for propaganda."

And the South is asleep.—Charleston News and Courier.

Alabama Sidesteps

"A Negro juror in Jackson County would be a curiosity, and some curiosities are embalmed, you know."

That was the blatant admission and savage lynch threat of the Alabama rulers, expressed editorially in the Jackson County Sentinel, published in Scottsboro, Ala., when in 1931 the International Labor Defense militantly challenged the Alabama lynch courts on the exclusion of Negroes from Alabama juries and specifically from the grand jury which indicted the nine innocent Scottsboro boys and the petit juries which sentenced eight of them to burn in the electric chair.

Daily Worker

12-12-34

New York N.Y.

That was in 1931. Since that time, however the Alabama lynch rulers and their courts have been forced on the defensive by the mighty world-wide mass fight against the lynch verdicts, against the violation of the constitutional rights of the Negro people and the whole monstrous system of Negro oppression and persecution. Already in the Decatur retrial of Heywood Patterson, the lynchers had forged the names of Negroes to the Jackson County jury list.

And this week, we find Alabama Attorney General Thomas E. Knight, Jr., denying in his brief to the U. S. Supreme Court, filed in answer to the brief of the I.L.D. attorneys for Clarence Norris, that Negroes are excluded from Alabama juries because of race or color. This is the same gentleman who in the Decatur retrial of Patterson contemptuously referred to the Negro lad as "that thing over there" and argued that no Negro—no matter how educated or intelligent—was fit to sit on an Alabama jury.

Knight's attempt to cover up a fact once proudly admitted by the Alabama lynch rulers provides further confirmation of the Communist analysis that the fight for the lives and freedom of the Scottsboro boys is inextricably connected with the struggle for Negro rights, for Negro liberation. The mass fight, which has forced the Alabama rulers on the defensive, should be supported by every sincere opponent of Negro oppression.

ST. LOUIS, MO.
POST DISPATCH

DEC 1 1934

A Defense of the I. L. D.

To the Editor of the Post-Dispatch:

AS one who has followed the case of the Scottsboro boys from the very beginning and has contributed to their defense from time to time, I wish to express my deepest astonishment at your editorial, "To Make a Communist Holiday."

If you would have taken the time to look over all the available data, you would have found out that it is thanks to the International Labor Defense and its valiant fight for the boys that they are still alive.

You state that the I. L. D. is a Communist organization. Have you ever attended a meeting of this organization? If you have, you would know that the I. L. D. is composed of all shades of opinion—Communist, Democrat, Republican.

The I. L. D. at no time has played with the fate of the boys; all the steps that the I. L. D. has taken in the case have been taken with the collaboration of the boys and their parents, nay, with their active participation.

As far as class war and Communism are concerned, the I. L. D. has no need of creating a class war—the whole case is part of a class war and an expression of the most brutal oppression of the Negro people. That undoubtedly serves to promote Communism, since the Communists are fighting for the emancipation of the Negro race, whether we like it or not.

Then you take up the defense for Mr. Leibowitz, but Mr. Leibowitz has been repudiated by the two condemned boys, Patterson and Norris. (You can find their statement in the Daily Worker.)

As far as the methods of the I. L. D. are concerned, they were the only ones which saved the boys for all these years. The policy of the I. L. D., "the best legal defense plus mass pressure," has been proved correct.

I have recently read a full financial statement of the I. L. D. on the Scottsboro case and I haven't found a penny that was spent otherwise than for their defense.

To conclude, I don't know who is gambling with the lives of the boys. Certainly your editorial doesn't contribute anything to the defense of the innocent boys at this crucial moment in their case.

IRWIN GOLDBERG.

(Editor's Note: We select the foregoing from a number of letters on the Scottsboro case.)

Lynchings-1934
Legal Punishment for Rape.

Alabama

4679

Alabama At Low Ebb In International Esteem Because Of Scottsboro Case

"Vindictive Antipathy" Toward Alabama Apparent Because of Universal Belief In Alabama Boys' Innocence—State Even Getting Slighted On Federal Projects.

WASHINGTON, Nov. 15—Alabama representatives here during the past few weeks have been inquiring into a possible "Vindictive antipathy" to Alabama because of the Scottsboro case, These Birmingham business men and politicians without going so far as to suggest any actual Federal policy of punishment point out that some Alabamians suspect that hostility on this account may quite possibly influence the decisions of certain individuals in Washington who have been permitted to pass upon the State's several claims, petitions and requests.

It is stated that throughout the State the idea is growing that Alabama has been greatly injured in public estimation throughout the entire world on account of the great publicity given the case, and the foreign attitude and belief that "the Scottsboro boys are innocent."

Birmingham made a great howl when the office for issuance of cotton certificates under the Control Act, bearing the name of Alabama's own representatives, Senator and Representative Bankhead was set up in Atlanta.

The theory that Birmingham is being punished because of the Scottsboro case is definitely given "as one of several factors in the apparent failure of this State to be allotted its proportionate share of PWA funds or to be assigned the regional offices of any of the several banks and boards set up in the South by the Federal government in the last few years."

S. F. Claugh, president of the Birmingham Chamber of Commerce, points to an impressive roll of Federal aids and agencies refused Birmingham in favor of other cities in the South. He cited the Federal Land Bank, assigned to New Orleans; the Federal Home Loan Bank, to Winston-Salem; the central office of the Tennessee Valley Authority, to Knoxville; the Electric Farm and Home Authority, to Chattanooga. Particularly galling was his list of agencies that have gone to Birmingham's rival city of Atlanta — the Federal Reserve Bank, the regional office of the Home Owners Loan Corporation, the regional office of the Labor Board and, worst of all, the office for issuance of cotton certificates under the control act bearing the name of Alabama's own Senator. John H. Bankhead.

Two Scottsboro Victories

Daily Worker 11-19-34

WHILE the criminal lawyer Leibowitz and his band of conspirators with the lynch authorities of Alabama were maneuvering to wreck the defense of the Scottsboro boys, the International Labor Defense gained two signal steps in the fight for the freedom of the boys.

The Alabama State Supreme Court, on motion of attorneys for the International Labor Defense, granted a stay of execution from December 7, when the boys were slated to be burned to death, until February 8. Saturday the United States Supreme Court granted the filing of an appeal in the case of Patterson and Norris, involving the fundamental issues of the case.

Thus, despite disruption, despite every trick used by Leibowitz and his fellow enemies of the struggle of the Scottsboro boys and the Negro people against lynch terror and oppression of the Negro race, the I. L. D., through its intensified mass campaign backed up by effective legal measures, was able to force these two gains.

But this is just a greater breathing space. The fight is only now gaining in momentum. All of the forces working against the Scottsboro boys now because of the victories of the I. L. D. will increase their machinations.

With the case before the United States Supreme Court, the tremendous mass campaign for the liberation of the Scottsboro boys will meet its real test.

What happens throughout the country now, how well we can arouse the toiling masses, the Negro people, and all real friends of the Scottsboro boys, will really determine the decision of the Supreme Court. Only a tremendous mass movement for the boys' release will bring a favorable decision.

The fight against the splitters and disrupters must be intensified now more than ever. The Leibowitz-created American Scottsboro Committee has announced collection of funds allegedly for "Scottsboro defense." All who know the slightest bit about the case know that it is the I. L. D. that is leading the fight for the defense of the Scottsboro boys on every front, in the Alabama Courts, in the U. S. Supreme Court, throughout the country, and throughout the world. All funds collected for "Scottsboro defense" must be turned over to the I. L. D. if it is to wage a victorious fight to the end for the Scottsboro boys.

November 26 to December 2 has been set aside by the I. L. D. as "Scottsboro week." During this period the most intense campaign for the liberation of the Scottsboro boys should be made, particularly winning the trade unions for the fight. Floods of protest resolutions and demands for their release should pour in on the U. S. Supreme Court, on Governor Miller, on President Roosevelt.

Let the two victorious steps forward won on Saturday spur us to greater action for the unconditional freedom of the Scottsboro boys.

Quick Action Needed To Save Scottsboro Boys From Execution

Daily Worker
11-16-34

Drive for Funds Is Part of Mass Struggle, Says Krumbein—All Organizations Urged to Contribute Immediately

By Charles Krumbein
N. Y. District Organizer, Communist Party

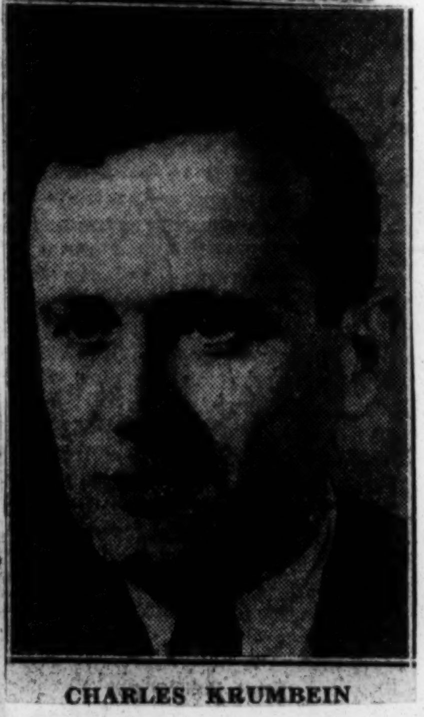
The International Labor Defense in its appeal for funds to carry on the campaign to save Haywood Patterson and Clarence Norris from legal lynching on December 7, has made clear the urgency of the situation, which is not confined to the financial question only, but is equally a question of development of a mass campaign.

Here in New York, with its huge concentration of Negro population in Harlem, where the Negro people are discriminated against in jobs, housing, rents, and terrorized by Mayor La Guardia's police department, we Communists have a special responsibility in regard to the fight for the lives of these boys.

The main force of the attacks of the betrayers of Scottsboro is concentrated in New York and the metropolitan district as a key point nationally. An important aim of these attacks has been to cripple the Scottsboro defense financially, as well as to confuse the masses and hold back the movement which alone can save the boys.

Mass action is needed, and money to carry on the legal and mass defense.

The Communist Party, New York District, has pledged itself to the development of the greatest mass movement around the Scottsboro


CHARLES KRUMBEIN

case that has ever been seen here. Recognizing the importance of the Scottsboro case to the whole struggle for Negro liberation, and the urgent immediate need for funds we are contributing $50 to the campaign fund.

11-16

We call upon every working class organization in New York to follow the example of the New York District of the Communist Party, to develop the broadest campaign to support the tag days for Scottsboro, organized by the New York District for Dec. 1 and 2, to collect and to contribute funds, for this campaign.

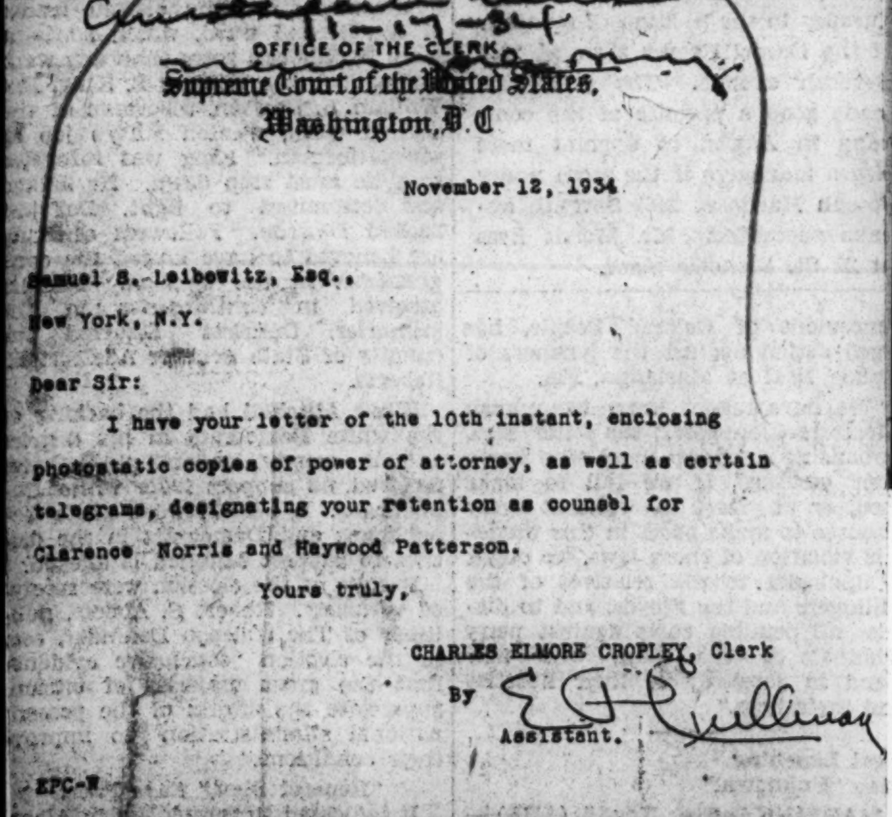
What will the trade unions do in this campaign? The Women's Councils? The Workers' Ex-Servicemen's League? The International Workers Order? The Unemployment Councils? The Workers' Clubs? The foreign-language organizations? The groups of professionals and intellectuals who are sympathetic to the working class movement and to the cause of Negro liberation?

We call on them for immediate action, for immediate preparation for the most intensive activity during Scottsboro week, Nov. 26 to Dec. 2, and for immediate contributions, from individuals and organizations.

Rush funds for Scottsboro-Herndon to the national office of the International Labor Defense, Room 610, 80 East 11th Street, New York City.

From U. S. Court

11-17-34



OFFICE OF THE CLERK
Supreme Court of the United States,
Washington, D.C.

November 12, 1934

Samuel S. Leibowitz, Esq.,
New York, N.Y.

Dear Sir:

I have your letter of the 10th instant, enclosing photostatic copies of power of attorney, as well as certain telegrams, designating your retention as counsbl for Clarence Norris and Haywood Patterson.

Yours truly,

CHARLES ELMORE CROPLEY, Clerk
By E. P. Cullinan
Assistant.

EPC-W

PHOTOSTATIC COPY of letter from Charles Elmore Cropley, clerk of the United States Supreme Court, acknowledging receipt of the credentials of Attorney Samuel S. Leibowitz as counsel for Haywood Patterson and Clarence Norris in their appeals to that body.

TO THEM ROOSEVELT SAID "NO"

11-17-34

Members of the Scottsboro-Herndon Action Committee, whom Marvin McIntyre, Roosevelt's sec'y, brusquely informed could "never see the President." McIntyre met the group last week in the lobby of the White House, refusing to see them in his office. First row: Prof. Broadus Mitchell, white, of Johns Hopkins University, Baltimore; Mrs. Viola Montgomery and Mrs. Ida Norris, Scottsboro mothers; Sarah Licht, white, United Council of Working Women; Mrs. Lilian Lottier, Baltimore Parent-Teacher Federation; Florence Collins, AFRO reporter, and Paul Hostetter. Second row: Bernice Dutrieuille, Philadelphia reporter; Louise Thompson, National Scottsboro-Herndon Action Committee; Mrs. Mary Craik Speed, white, National Scottsboro-Herndon Action Committee; Samuel Patterson, chairman of the N.S.H.A.C.; Dr. Reuben S. Young, League of Struggle for Negro Rights. Third row: Clara Meltzer, white, Needles Trade Workers' Industrial Union; Edward S. Lewis, Baltimore Urban League; Richard Moore, I.L.D.; Mrs. Edward S. Lewis, Baltimore Urban League; Harry Lord, white, Marine Workers' Industrial Union; Nate Bruce, New York District, I.L.D.; Bernard Ades, white, Baltimore I.L.D. Fourth row: George B. Murphy, Jr., AFRO reporter; Mike Walsh, white, New York I.L.D. Fifth row: Belford Lawson, New Negro Alliance; Herbert Benjamin, white, National Unemployed Council; James Ford, Communist party; Dr. Arnold Donawa, New York United Front Supporters; Samuel Robinson, Boston I.L.D. Sixth row: M. Waldron, white, Daily Worker.

Afro Am
11-17-34

Lynchings-1934
Legal Punishment for Rape.

Alabama-

4680

SCOTTSBORO LAWYERS RELEASED UNDER BOND

11-7-34

HUNTSVILLE, Ala., Nov 6.—(AP) Sol Kone and Daniel Swift, New York attorneys, charged with attempting to "bribe or influence" the state's principal witness in the Scottsboro case today were released under bond of $2,000 each, pending action by the grand jury.

Judge W. H. Blanton, in Madison inferior court, ordered the two men with J. W. Peerson, of Birmingham, held to the Madison county grand jury on testimony offered by Mrs. Victoria Price, whom the state charges attempts were made to bribe.

Bond originally was set at $2,500, but on motion of Solicitor James H. Pride it was reduced to $2,000. The bond for Peerson also was reduced to $2,000 but he had not posted it today.

Scottsboro March Planned In Chicago

Daily Worker

Many Turned Away at Philadelphia Defense Meeting

CHICAGO, Nov. 7.—Saturday, 17, has been set aside as Scottsboro Day in Chicago. On that day, Chicago workers and intelectuals, Negro and white, will hold a giant mass march through the streets of Chicago to protest the proposed legal murder of Clarence Norris and Haywood Patterson on Dec. 7, and to demand the freedom and safety of the nine innocent boys.

The march will start at 2 p.m., from 47th and Prairie, proceeding to 33rd and Indiana to the Pilgrim Baptist Church.

11-8-34

The I. L. D. and the L. S. N. R. have also issue a joint call for an Emergency Scottsboro Conference to be held on Nov. 26. Labor unions, Negro churches, fraternal organizations and other bodies are being visited for endorsement.

New York

Big Meeting in Philadelphia

PHILADELPHIA, Nov. 7.—The tremendous response of Philadelphia workers, Negro and white, to the fight for the freedom of the Scottsboro boys and Angelo Herndon was dramatically demonstrated Monday night when hundreds of workers had to be turned away from a Scottsboro-Herndon meeting arranged by the International Labor Defense in Eastwick.

Ruby Bates, start defense witness who braved death to expose the rape frame-up against the boys in her testimony in the Decatur, Ala. lynch court, was the main speaker. Resolutions denouncing the attempt of Alabama authorities to legally murder Haywood Patterson and Clarence Norris on Dec. 7 and demanding the unconditional and safe release of all nine of the boys were unanimously adopted and sent to President Roosevelt, and to Gov. B. M. Miller of Alabama.

* * *

To Parade in Brooklyn

Four of the Scottsboro mothers will head a protest march of Brooklyn workers this Saturday evening in Crown Heights, Brooklyn, called to protest the proposed legal lynching on Dec. 7 of two of the nine boys, Haywood Patterson and Clarence Norris.

The march will start at 7 o'clock from Nostrand and Herkimer St. and will end with a mass meeting at Ralph Ave. A. M. E. Zion Church.

STORE OWNER QUIZZED ON DEFENSE FUND

Daily Worker

Scottsboro Mothers Tell New Koch Head I.L.D. Must Get It

11-8-34

NEW YORK, Nov. 7.—Three of the Scottsboro mothers yesterday headed a delegation to Mr. Weinstein, owner of the New Koch Department Store on West 125th Street, to demand that all funds raised in the name of the Scottsboro boys be turned over to the International Labor Defense, which has full charge of the case, following the repudiation of Samuel S. Leibowitz, renegade defense attorney, by the boys and their mothers.

New York

The store has advertised a special Scottsboro sale on Nov. 8, 9 and 10, with the promise that "a generous percentage of the sales will be donated to the Scottsboro Fund."

Proof was presented to the management by the Scottsboro mothers and other members of the delegation that the I. L. D. has retainers from Haywood Patterson and Clarence Norris, dated Nov. 1, in which the two boys give the I. L. D. full charge their appeals to the U. S. Supreme Court against the decision of the Alabama Supreme Court decreeing their legal lynchings, on Dec. 7. In their retainer, both boys describe their action as final and as abrogating all papers they were induced to sign for Leibowitz, through coercion by Alabama authorities and deception by Negro misleaders.

It was also pointed out to the management that the I. L. D. lawyers have already filed appeal papers with the U. S. Supreme Court and that printing of the appeal has been begun.

Although confronted by the Scottsboro mothers themselves, Mr. Weinstein hemmed and hawed and finally told the delegation he would hold the money in escrow until he decided to whom it should be turned over. The delegation then pointed to his advertisements that prominent persons would speak at the store on the Scottsboro defense during the sales. Ask who these "prominent persons" were, he refused to reveal their names, and rejected the delegation's demand that the mothers of the Scottsboro boys be permitted to speak.

The mothers who visited the store were Mrs. Ida Norris, mother of Clarence Norris, and Mrs. Ada Wright and Mrs. Viola Montgomery. The delegation, sponsored by the National Scottsboro-Herndon Action Committee, was composed of the following persons, in addition to the three mothers, Samuel Patterson, Louise Thompson, Nate Bruce of the District I. L. D., Mike Walsh of the Harlem Section of the I. L. D., and Edward Kuntz, of the I. L. D. legal staff.

The District I. L. D. yesterday declared that there is no doubt that Mr. Weinstein is co-operating with the forces led by Leibowitz, which are trying to disrupt the fight for the lives and freedom of the boys. It urged all friends of the boys, individuals and organizations, to make demands on the store that the sales percentage it has promised to the Scottsboro Fund be turned over to the L. I. D. to help defray expenses of the appeal to the U. S. Supreme Court.

EIGHT OF SCOTTSBORO BOYS WILL STILL GET ATTORNEY'S SUPPORT

SAMUEL LEIBOWITZ

TACTICS CHANGE FOR DEFENSE OF NEGROES DECIDED

News

Samuel Leibowitz Announces Complete Break With Radical Elements

11-5-34

A complete break with the I. L. D. and all other radical elements and "a whole new change of scenery" in the conduct of the defense of the Scottsboro boys was promised Saturday night by Samuel Leibowitz, New York attorney when he visited seven of the prisoners in the county jail here.

Mr. Leibowitz came here from Montgomery, where he conferred earlier in the day with Clarence Norris and Haywood Patterson, the two Negroes who are in "death row" at Kilby Prison, under sentence of execution for the freight train attack on Victoria Price. The attorney revealed—and he was substantiated by the seven boys in Jefferson County jail—that he is defending all of the original nine with the exception of Patterson.

Asked who would defend this Negro, Mr. Leibowitz said: "The Communists."

The defense lawyer seemed pleased over the definite break with the I. L. D. and said that "for the first time the decent element in America that believes in the innocence of these boys is rallying to the defense—leaving the other out."

In the "new deal" for the Scottsboro boys, Mr. Leibowitz said, new and eminent counsel will be retained by the defense. One man who will become associated with the defense, he asserted, is of national prominence. He also said a prominent local lawyer will be retained.

Mr. Leibowitz said Norris' case will probably be appealed to the United States Supreme Court within "two weeks or so."

Huntsville, Ala., Register
November 5. 1934

There's Some Fineness Somewhere In The Noted Victoria Price

We've had something in our system for a long time, and out it must come.

A word of encouragement, we feel, is due to Mrs. Victoria Price, principal witness for the state in the two and a half years old "Scottboro case." She has endured a lot, and is to be admired for the courage she has exhibited in turning down the several bribe offers which have been made her to retract her story, as did Ruby Bates.

Victoria is a cotton mill worker, which is an honorable job for her to follow. She has needed money for years, and $1,000 or $1,500 should and did look mighty good to her. It would to any other person in her circumstances.

It makes our blood boil, when we think that any person should attempt to bribe her. Sol Kone and Dan Swift, whose cases, in which they were charged with having attempted to bribe Mrs. Price, were before the inferior court last week, were bound over to the grand jury. If these men are innocent, they should be acquitdte, but, if guilty, should be given the maximum sentence. which is for 10 years, and the maximum fine, which is of $1,000, as an example to all others who might hink bribery a clever stunt.

Victoria Price saw Ruby Bates, who first testified she, too, was attacked by the nine negro defendants, leave Huntsville as a cotton mill employe and step into a semi-luxurious position as an obvious swap for her retracted story. All of this must have made an impression upon her (Victoria), and money to her must have been tempting. It is all the more reason why a kindly word should be said on her behalf. She overcame a human weakness, —a tendency to follow the line of least resistance—to accept money in trade for a few words; she had the courage to stick to her story, and continued to work in the cotton mill, when she might have today everything else she would want.

This courageous woman is entitled to a break. She has suffered much, and it is time that life for her were made easier. A purse of money, raised by popular subscription, would not be amiss. At the proper time, if something of this kind isn't done in the meanwhile, The Daily Register shall inaugurate a movement to take this noble character out of the life she is now living.

Nation

11-21-34

New York, N.Y.

Vol. 139, No. 3620

THE SCOTTSBORO CASE continues to be in a muddle. An appeal is to be heard very shortly by the United States Supreme Court in the case of Clarence Norris, sentenced to die on December 7. The Alabama Supreme Court refused to review the case of Haywood Patterson, sentenced to die the same day. Should the Supreme Court refuse to consider Patterson's case on the ground that it does not come from a supreme State tribunal, only a gubernatorial pardon or commutation of sentence could save Patterson's life. It is also unclear who will argue before the Supreme Court. The International Labor Defense states it has retained Walter Pollak, who made the successful appeal last year. Mr. Leibowitz still claims he has been retained directly by the boys, and will be associated with a qualified appeal attorney. Mr. Pollak is preparing the necessary papers, but he may be asked to turn them over to someone indicated by Mr. Leibowitz before the Supreme Court hearing. The I. L. D. is appealing for funds; Mr. Leibowitz is roundly denouncing radicalism, mass movements, and all doubters of the evenhandedness of Southern justice. Nor is the State of Alabama passive. It is preparing to prosecute two I. L. D. attorneys on a charge of attempted bribery of a witness. From Montgomery we learn that Alabama agents are out with a warrant to seize on charges of perjury Ruby Bates, who testified as State's witness in the original Scottsboro trial, but later aided the defense. Should they succeed in carrying her to Alabama, they would be able to offer immunity in return for a new reversal of testimony. All of which is depressing to the hundreds of thousands who believe firmly in the innocence of the nine boys and in the need of saving their lives.

I.L.D. PRAISED BY MOTHER OF PATTERSON

Daily Worker

'I'll Never Forsake the I. L. D.' Her Letter Explains

11-21-34

ADVISES HER SON

New York

N.Y.

Says That Leibowitz and Terry Tricked Her Into Error

How she was tricked by Samuel S. Leibowitz and his bodyguard, John Terry, into repudiation of the International Labor Defense, which has for three years led the fight which has kept her son, Haywood Patterson, and the other Scottsboro boys alive, is told in a letter received by Anna Damon, Acting National Secretary of the I. L. D., from Mrs. Janie Patterson.

Mrs. Patterson has written to Haywood to have nothing to do under any circumstances with Leibowitz or his agents.

"For the last three years I have been with the I. L. D.," Mrs. Patterson writes in a letter just received. "I haven't caught them in no lie. They have always did what they told me, and since I have learn what I have I am sorry that I have made such a error. I don't want a single member of the I. L. D. to have no bad feeling toward me whatever. I am going to die with the I. L. D.

"I have learned that Leibowitz was helping Mr. Chamlee to pull skin over my eyes.

"Terry (John Terry, Leibowitz's bodyguard) said that Mr. Leibowitz can do more with the case than the I. L. D. can. Now I don't aim to ever listen to no other living man come to me like that. I am expect to listen to the I. L. D. for they are the only friend I have

"I am sorry, sorry to my heart; my heart is almost ready to bust, that I listen to Terry. I am willing to go down with the I. L. D. I'll never forsake the I. L. D.

"Terry trick me, also Mr. Chamlee. I always had a lot of confidence in Mr. Chamlee, but I have not got any in him now.

"JANIE PATTERSON."

The I. L. D., which last week won a stay of execution from December 7 to February 8 for Patterson and Clarence Norris, announced that application and brief for a writ of certiorari in the Patterson case would be filed with the U. S. Supreme Court today or tomorrow.

The application and writ in the Norris case was filed last Saturday, in order to get the Scottsboro case before the U. S. Supreme Court as quickly as possible. The Patterson application, which, on account of the conduct of Judge Callahan in his trial raises more constitutional questions, took a few days longer to perfect.

LEIBOWITZ IS ACCEPTED BY U.S. TRIBUNAL

Amsterdam News

Stay of Execution to Be Sought for Two Doomed Youths

11-17-34

The United States Supreme Court has accepted the credentials of Attorney Samuel S. Leibowitz as the sole representative of Haywood Patterson and Clarence Norris in the appeals of their cases to that body, the prominent lawyer announced yesterday in making public a letter from Charles Elmore Cropley, clerk of the country's highest tribunal.

New York, N.Y.

At the same time, Attorney Leibowitz revealed that the Alabama Supreme Court will be petitioned Monday to halt the impending execution of the two youths, which is scheduled for December 7, until their cases have been brought before the U. S. Supreme Court. Should the Alabama courts reject this petition, their decision will be appealed to the United States Supreme Court.

Associated with Attorney Leibowitz in the preparation of the briefs for argument before the highest tribunal is Attorney Joseph M. Paley, former secretary, for fourteen years, of U. S. Supreme Court Justice Benjamin M. Cardoza. The appeal is expected to be argued at some date next month.

The letter from the clerk of the U. S. Court to Mr. Leibowitz reads: "I have your letter of the 10th instant, enclosing photostatic copies of power of attorney, as well as certain telegrams, designating your retention as counsel for Clarence Norris and Haywood Patterson."

In the meanwhile, the American Scottsboro Committee which will raise funds for the appeal has designated Sunday, November 25, as Scottsboro Boys Day, on which every church in America, white and Negro, Jewish, Protestant and Catholic, will be asked to take up a collection to defray the expenses of the case. The organization, which is incorporated under the laws of New York State, has offices at 289 Fourth avenue. The incorporation papers were approved by Supreme Court Justice Salvator A. Cotillo.

The American Scottsboro Committee has now opened a drive for 1,000 prominent members of all races and creeds and will establish branches in all the principal cities of the country. Steps in this direction have already been taken in Chicago, Cleveland, Louisville, Nashville, Atlanta and other cities. Dr. George E. Haynes, executive secretary of the Department of Race Relations of the Federal Council of Churches of Christ in America, is temporary chairman of the committee and Rev. J. W. Brown, pastor of Mother A. M. E. Zion Church, is temporary treasurer.

SCOTTSBORO BRIBE OFFER TO BE AIRED

Post

Trials For Accused Tric Slated In December

11-29-34

Birmingham, Ala.

HUNTSVILLE, Nov. 28.—(Special.)—Reported attempts by two New York lawyers and a Birmingham man to bribe Mrs. Victoria Price, chief witness in the Scottsboro attack case, wil be aired at a trial sometime in December.

Indictments against the three charging bribery, were returned by the county grand jury which adjourned Monday ,it became known today. Prosecutors expect to try each defendant separately.

J. W. Pearson, former Birmingham real estate man, is in jail here but Sol Kone and Daniel Swift, the lawyers, are back in New York under cash bonds of 05,000. They spent a month in jail before making bond.

The three men are charged with having attempted to bribe Mrs. Price to change her testimony in the Scottsboro case, for which two negroes are under death sentence and five more await trial.

Lynchings - 1937

Legal Punishment for Rape.

Alabama

4681

'Can't See Scottsboro Niggers', Jailers Tell I. L. D. Attorney

Daily Worker

Patterson and Norris Denied Right To Consult With Attorney on Pending Appeal; Vigorous Protests Urged

MONTGOMERY, Ala., April 11.—"I don't give a damn who you got a letter from, you can't see those Scottsboro niggers," was the answer of the jailers here to a request by Benjamin J. Davis, Jr., Negro I. L. D. attorney of Atlanta, Ga., who was sent by the I. L. D. to interview Heywood Patterson and Clarence Norris in Kilby prison.

Davis had a letter from Joseph Brodsky, chief counsel for the I. L. D. and attorney of record in the Scottsboro case, authorizing him to interview the boys as member of counsel. He was categorically refused permission to see them.

4-12-34

Davis announced he would return in a few days and force the prison authorities to let him see the boys. Davis is I. L. D. counsel retained in the legal defense of Angelo Herndon, young Negro organizer of the unemployed under sentence of 18 to 20 years on the chain-gang in Atlanta, Ga.

New York

• • •

NEW YORK.—A call to all sympathizers with the Scottsboro boys to intensify their protest against the torture of the Scottsboro boys in Jefferson County jail, where they are being kept in solitary and given beatings in an effort to force them to renounce the I. L. D. defense and accept a lynch lawyer of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People, was sent out today by William L. Patterson, national I. L. D. secretary.

Protests, addressed to Governor Miller, the state supreme court and the warden of Kilby Prison, Montgomery, Ala., should demand permission for I. L. D. lawyers and representatives to see the boys held in that prison.

Protests against the torture of the boys in Birmingham should be sent to Governor Miller, the state supreme court, all at Montgomery, Ala.; the sheriff of Jefferson County and the warden of Jefferson County jail, Birmingham, Ala.

Albany-Decatur, Ala. Daily
April 10, 1934

Another Chapter

Again the attorneys for the Scottsboro negroes have opened a bag of publicity stunts and Samuel Simon Leibowitz, chief of defense counsel by his protest infers the ridiculous charge of mistreatment of the defendants in the Jefferson county jail is based on fact.

Five of the defendants are in solitary confinement. Why? Because of any disposition on the part of Jefferson county officials to mistreat them? No. Simply because of two fights these defendants had with other prisoners, also negroes. If the Scottsboro crowd can't get along with other prisoners in the Jefferson jail, solitary confinement is what they need.

As a matter of fact, the Scottsboro group experiences considerable difficulty getting along among themselves. They had one fight while here awaiting trial. From time to time they have given Jefferson officials a great deal of trouble and only recently engaged in a riot in the jail in Birmingham.

On top of all these known facts, Samuel Simon Leibowitz, self-confessed lawyer of extraordinary ability, has the effrontery to "protest" against the silly charge of mistreatment.

Birmingham, Ala., News
April 12, 1934

'GOOD' TREATMENT GIVEN SCOTTSBORO NEGROES, REPORT

Grand Jurors Visit Group In Jail Upon Request Of Sheriff Hawkins

The seven Scottsboro Negroes confined in County Jail here are given the "same food and accorded better treatment than other prisoners in the jail because of widespread publicity given these Negroes," the Grand Jury reported to Judge McElroy in Criminal Court Thursday.

The special report was made after the jurors had visited the Scottsboro Negroes in their cells and inspected their food and quarters, at the request of Sheriff Hawkins. The inquisitors also pointed out that the special visit to the jail was made because of wide publicity given the Negroes and their treatment in the prison.

The special report, which was signed by Henry H. Cobb, foreman, stated that the jurors had talked to each of the prisoners and had been told by the Negroes that their food and treatment was "good" and that the only complaint made by the Negroes was that they were "tired of the food." The report also stated the Negroes, who are confined in a cell block to themselves, wanted to be moved to the part of the jail in which other Negro prisoners are kept.

Wardens in the jail placed the Scottsboro Negroes to themselves after they had created a series of disturbances and assaulted several other Negro prisoners while they were permitted to remain in the same section with the other Negroes.

"We find that four of the Scottsboro Negroes were segregated to themselves on account of numerous fights and disturbances they caused," the report stated. "The quarters they are housed in are the same as any other part of the jail and we could find no evidence of any discrimination against the Negroes.

"We visited the kitchen while dinner was being prepared and found cooks preparing all plates alike, not knowing to whom these plates will be served. We found the food well prepared, good and wholesome."

Before reporting, the jurors questioned B. P. Singleton, assistant state examiner, who is making an audit of Criminal Court Clerk Brandon's office, to determine when his audit would be completed and published. Singleton was summoned before the body in connection with charges that a shortage exists in accounts of the office.

The body returned 73 true bills and 20 no bills and adjourned until May 7.

NEW ORLEANS, LA.
ITEM

MAR 2 7 1934

Long-Distance Riots

NEW YORK police disperse another demonstration protesting this and that aspect of the Scottsboro trials. Five thousand Harlem Negroes and white sympathizers riot, and four police emergency squads, a motorcycle brigade, 10 radio cars and five or six carloads of detectives are required to cope with the disturbers.

Riots of this kind always make us marvel at, not the wickedness, but the stupidity of humankind. Harlem goes beserk over Scottsboro; mobs in European capitals march and yell to protest the execution of Sacco and Vanzetti in Massachusetts; New England factory workers agitate for the release of Billings and Mooney. Among all these mobs, probably not one demonstrator in three or four hundred could accurately recount even major developments in the Scottsboro, Sacco-Vanzetti or the Mooney case. Still fewer could intelligently analyze the factors which have made these cases famous, and rallying points for discontent.

If we look for intelligence in any specific mob action, we shall emerge from our inquiry with a pretty poor opinion of the neighbors. It is only when we look beneath the Harlem rioter's ignorance of what he is rioting about that we begin to see some sense in the phenomena of disorderly and seemingly unwarranted protest. What Harlem, and Budapest, and New England crowds are really rioting about is not some alleged injustice thousands of miles away, in which they have only a factitious interest, but their discontent with their own lives and prospects and governments. The best way to prevent riots in California over something that has occurred in New York is to improve the conditions of life in California.

Nine Churches Aid Scottsboro Defense Fund

Daily Worker
11-24-34
New York, N.Y.

Nine small-town Virginia churches which got together to hold a Scottsboro benefit and a Minnesota camp of the United Spanish War Veterans, were among the contributors last week to the $6,000 Scottsboro defense fund of the International Labor Defense, to pay the expenses of the legal and mass campaign to force the United States Supreme Court to reverse the lynch-verdicts of death against Haywood Patterson and Clarence Norris.

The churches were the Shiloh Baptist and Beulah Baptist churches and York County Training School League of Yorktown, the Rising Sun Baptist church and School Improvement League of Lackey, the Grabton Baptist of Grabton, the Mt. Gilead of Macruder, the New Beech Grove Christian and Denbeigh, all in Virginia. The amount raised and sent to the I.L.D. was $37.25.

The Col. Charles Young, Camp No. 29 of the United Spanish War Veterans, of St. Paul, Minn., made a contribution of $5 to the fund.

Money for the Scottsboro-Herndon defense fund should be sent to the national office of the International Labor Defense, Room 610, 80 East 11th Street. New York City.

N.A.A.C.P. Leaders Ordered Torture, Scottsboro Lads Reveal

Daily Worker 4-14-34

BIRMINGHAM, Ala., April 13.—The present monstrous torture of the Scottsboro boys in Jefferson County jail here, is directly linked to a pact between the leadership of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People and the Alabama lynchers, it was revealed today.

William Pickens, field secretary of the N.A.A.C.P., visited the boys four weeks ago in an effort to persuade them to renounce the International Labor Defense and accept a lynch lawyer named by the N.A.A.C.P.

Failing in this effort, Pickens, who was accompanied by three white Birmingham "liberals," had a conference with the prison authorities.

Almost immediately the present reign of terror against the boys was begun, and they were thrown into solitary confinement, denied all comforts sent them by workers throughout the country, and subjected to daily torture in an effort to "break" them.

Deputy Warden Dan Rogers has openly told the boys that their present confinement in solitary cells will continue until they accept the "defense" of the N. A. A. C. P., the boys told a visitor who managed to get in to see them.

It was revealed at the same time that although it was almost impossible for their I.L.D. defense lawyers, or any relatives or friends of the boys, to get in to see them, representatives of the N.A.A.C.P., including the Rev. E. W. Taggart, local head of that organization have had constant and easy access to the prison.

The unholy alliance between the leaders of the N.A.A.C.P. and Alabama authorities who for three years have been attempting to burn the nine innocent Negro boys in the electric chair, is further revealed in agitating in the lynch press for Negro support of the N.A.A.C.P. leadership and its [illegible] policies. The press campaign is led by John Temple Graves, leading ideologist of the Southern lynchers and columnist on the Negro-hating Birmingham Age-Herald.

Deputy Warden Dan Rogers of Jefferson County jail, it is revealed, has been made the direct N.A.A.C.P. agent within the prison.

It was on his recommendation that the boys have been put into solitary confinement, following fights started with them by stool-pigeons planted in their cells by Rogers.

"If any of you niggers want to change to the N.A.A.C.P., let me know and I'll call them," Rogers told the boys.

"If you were dying I'd never tell the I.L.D.," he said at another time, "but if you had the N.A.A.C.P. and just got sick I'd call them on the phone right away. You keep the I.L.D. and you're going to catch hell."

On another occasion he told them that the Rev. Taggart frequently came to the jail and had told him that "if the boys ever want to change to the N.A.A.C.P., just give me a ring."

Boys Retain Fighting Unity

To all these tortures, it is reported by their visitor, the Scottsboro boys have answered by an even firmer expression of their faith in the International Labor Defense and the millions of white and Negro toilers throughout the world who have rallied to their defense.

Against this savage torture of the boys, aimed to break their militant spirit and deliver them bound into the hands of the lynchers and their N.A.A.C.P. agents, the workers and intellectuals of the whole country must thunder their immediate protests. Demand a halt to the torture of the Scottsboro boys! Wire protests at once to Gov. B. M. Miller, Montgomery, Ala., Warden F. L. Erwin, Jefferson County Jail, Birmingham, Ala., and to President Roosevelt. The tortured Scottsboro boys are innocent! Demand their immediate, unconditional and safe release! Support the plans of the International Labor Defense for the intensification of the Scottsboro campaign this month, and for gigantic protest demonstrations throughout the whole world on April 25!

COLUMBUS, O.
DISPATCH

MAR 27 1934

SCOTSBORO AND LIMA

To the Editor of The Dispatch.

Sir: As a regular visitor to Ohio as salesman for a southern industry, may I make an observation on your court procedure in the Buckeye state.

You Northern folk condemn us for our treatment of Negroes in the Scottsboro case, when it occurs to me after a business trip to Lima, Ohio, where you have a murder trial in progress, that you show undue excitement and prejudice that we know little about.

In other words, under the spectacular military rule and the entire surroundings so charged with excitement, I feel sure that no juror could do otherwise than render a death verdict, without mob violence and ostracism. That is exactly the situation in Scottsboro, in my home state, and which you Northern folks condemn us for.

R. J. Wentworth.

New York Evening Post

APR 5 1934

A Great Play

It is good news that "They Shall Not Die," the Theatre Guild play at the Royale Theatre, will not close this Saturday night as announced. The run will be continued. The length of continuance depends, of course, on the attendance.

This is a great play, superbly cast, admirably acted. The fact that it is a propaganda play, dramatizing vividly the tragic plight of the nine colored boys unjustly condemned to death by the Alabama courts for assault on two white girls, has led many theatregoers to think they would encounter a serious and heavy evening's entertainment. Most propaganda plays are dull and tell the interested spectator what he already knows.

"They Shall Not Die" is different. It is also thrilling melodrama, with a stirring plot and emotional appeals throughout which tug at one's heartstrings. Even those who are not the least interested in the Scottsboro case or who care little about this play as an admirable portrayal of manners and customs in the darker South will discover that it's a fine evening's entertainment. No one can afford to miss it.

Mother of 5 Scottsboro Boys To Come To N. Y. For May Day Parade

4-28-34

New York

Five Scottsboro mothers will arrive in New York this Saturday.

They come to New York to lead the monster parade of Negro and white workers who will march on Tuesday, May 1, on to Union Square, at 2 p. m.

Mrs. Viola Montgomery, mother of Olen Montgomery; Mrs. Josephine Powell, mother of Ozie Powell; Mrs. Ida Norris, mother of Clarence Norris; Mrs. Janie Patterson, whose son Haywood Patterson, has been sentenced to die three times, and Mrs. Mamie Williams, are coming up from the South to join in the May Day demonstration.

Montgomery, Ala. Journal
April 20, 1934

Working on Scottsboro Case

Preparing to defend the state's contention that the Scottsboro negroes should go to the electric chair, Attorney General Thomas E. Knight, Jr., has sent T. S. Lawson, one of his associates, to Decatur to check on the bill of exceptions filed by counsel for the negroes before the case reaches the Alabama supreme court again.

The certificate of appeal in the cases of Heywood Paterson and Clarence Norris, the two negroes sentenced to die at the last trial in Decatur, are expected to reach the supreme court shortly.

The Alabama attorney general probably has placed more energy in his prosecution of the Scottsboro case than he has in any other during his administration and he intends to continue the fight as long as he holds the office.

He convinced the supreme court once that the death verdict was justified and Lawson's trip to Decatur was his first step in the second effort to gain an affirmative decision.

Scottsboro Rally Tonight Will Hear Report on L. Blum

Daily Worker

Several Cities Preparing Giant Demonstrations for April 25

4-20-34

NEW YORK.—A report from a delegation which recently visited Leon Blum, militant leader of the Laundry Workers Industrial Union, jailed for his activities in the strikes of Bronx laundry workers, will be given at the Scottsboro-Blum protest demonstration tonight at the Nat Turner Hall, Third Ave. and 170th St. Arthur Hirsch, head of the delegation, will make the report.

The indoor meeting will be preceded by four open-air meetings and a giant protest parade starting from the main open-air meeting at 161st St. and Prospect Ave. at 7 o'clock. Three other meetings, at Wilkins and Intervale, 172nd St. and Third Ave., and Claremont Parkway and Washington will feed the parade.

Joseph Brodsky, cheif of the legal staff of the International Labor Defense, and Richard B. Moore, general secretary of the League of Struggle for Negro Rights, will be the main speakers at the indoor meeting.

The Bronx demonstration is a preparatory action for the mighty city-wide Scottsboro protest demonstration in Harlem at five o'clock next Wednesday, April 25, International Scottsboro Day.

Meetings in the needle trades market and the Crown Heights section of Brooklyn are being held all this week to mobilize the workers for April 25.

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Boston Workers Prepare Giant Protest

BOSTON, April 19.—Boston workers will hold a big Scottsboro-Herndon protest parade and demonstration on April 25, starting at Douglas Square at 5 p.m. Church and house-to-house collections for the Scottsboro defense will be conducted this Sunday.

10TH SCOTTSBORO NEGRO IS SOUGHT

Montgomery Advertiser

Birmingham Woman Attacked By Man Linked In Noted Case

Montgomery Ala

BIRMINGHAM, ALA., Nov. 3.—(AP)—Police today sought a negro who boasted he was "one of the Scottsboro boys who escaped" as the attacker of pretty Mrs. Mabel Roy, 18, early this morning in a rooming house here. 11/4/34

From her bed in a hospital here, Mrs. Roy told officers a story of four hours in extreme terror in her room after she was awakened by a negro man who held a knife against her throat and a revolver against her head.

During the period she was held captive, Mrs. Roy told officers, the negro said he had been in "devilment" before, and said "I been doing this all over the South."

A few moments before the negro fled, Mrs. Roy said, the negro told her she "knew too much" and he was going to kill her, but after an anxious minute with his knife on her throat, the intruder became alarmed and made his escape.

During his boasting, the woman told officers, the negro said he was from Ohio, and had been on the Southern Railway freight train on March 25, 1931, when nine negro defendants in the Scottsboro case were arrested at Paint Rock, Ala. and charged with attacking two white girls. "I had more sense than to stay with that other bunch," Mrs. Roy quoted the negro as saying. "They got caught, I got away."

Authorities recalled that a search was made for three additional negroes aboard the train after the arrest of the nine defendants in the widely publicized "Scottsboro" case.

Mrs. Roy had a five-inch wound, apparently inflicted with a blunt instrument, on her head. Hospital authorities said her condition was not serious."

Lynchings - 1934
Legal Punishment for Rape.

Alabama

4682

Leibowitz Talks With His Clients; Resigns Patterson To Communists

Advertiser

4-34

Samuel S. Leibowitz, of New York, principal counsel for the negro defendants in the "Scottsboro cases," who was at the capitol yesterday for a conference with Atty. Gen. Thomas E. Knight, Jr., said he is now representing all seven of the negroes with the exception of Heywood Patterson. Attorneys provided by the communists, he said, will represent Patterson.

Formerly associated with other lawyers employed by the International Labor Defense to represent the defendants, Leibowitz announced in New York some time ago, that he was now employed solely by the parents of the negroes and a group of negro ministers.

The original alignment of defense counsel was disrupted when Leibowitz severed his connection with the others after roundly denouncing communist participation in the cases. Recenlty, however, the defendants, including Patterson, signed powers of attorney, authorizing Leibowitz and Leibowitz alone, to act for them.

Whether Patterson, who has changed his mind several times already as to who he wants for his lawyer—has changed it again, could not be ascertained yesterday. At any rate, he is no longer represented by Mr. Leibowitz. Presumably, Joseph Brodsky and J. R. Frankel, also of New York, who for months were associated as defense attorneys with Leibowitz, will represent him.

Though his conference with the attorney general yesterday, which had to do with the two cases now on second appeal to the U. S. Supreme Court and those of the other five negroes yet to be retried, was by special appointment—the main purpose of the visit of Mr Leibowitz to Alabama is to interview his clients which include all of the "Scottsboro case" defendants, except Patterson, of course. All seven are charged with criminally assaulting Mrs. Victoria Price, near Paint Rock, Ala., in March, 1931.

Two of the negroes, Patterson and Clarence Norris, who were reconvicted are now confined at Kilby Prison, under sentence of death. The other five are prisoners in the Jefferson County jail at Birmingham. Effort is now being made by defense lawyers, to have judgments of the trial court and the Supreme Court of Alabama in the cases of Patterson and Norris, reviewed by the U. S. Supreme Court.

In the case of Patterson, however, the reviewal if granted, will have to be based solely upon the record, as a bill of exceptions was not filed by Patterson's counsel until after the time limit for doing so, as fixed by statute, had expired.

BROOKLYN, N. Y.
Jewish Examiner
OCT 5 1934

LEIBOWITZ LEADS ATTACK ON BLACK HITLER'S RACKET

Scottsboro Lawyer Hits Abdul Hamid's Attempt to Split Harlem Jews, Negroes

By SAM BROWN

Samuel S. Leibowitz, the attorney who has won the affection of every Negro in the United States through his heroic defense of the Scottsboro boys, yesterday deplored the success which efforts to enter a wedge in Negro-Jewish relationships have been meeting in this city during the past weeks.

"If nothing else were to unite these two peoples," he told the JEWISH EXAMINER, "the persecutions that they have shared and are sharing would make them natural allies."

He scored the racketeers who are inviting Negroes in Harlem to picket and boycott the shops of small Jewish merchants under the guise of fighting for more proportional employment for them.

"I am absolutely in accord with any honest endeavor on the part of the Negro citizens of Harlem," Leibowitz declared, "to obtain economic justice through employment in the district in which they reside.

"I myself have been waging a relentless campaign for similar justice in behalf of my own fellow Jewish citizens, and every decent Jew owes it to his people to see to it that fair play is accorded to his Negro brothers."

Referring to the activities of Abdul Hamid, the demagogic "Black Hitler," who is responsible for the friction that has arisen between Negroes and Jews in Harlem, Leibowitz fervently declared:

"His agitation should be ignored as a fruitless and dim-witted attempt to fly in the face of good sense.

"The dark races of America can be trusted to see through such tactics. It is another evidence of nasty disrespect for the black man's intelligence and critical sense that agitators try to incite them against their Jewish neighbors. Every Negro in America knows that the Jew is among his staunchest friends. The name of Rosenwald is not soon forgotten, nor his efforts for Negro education."

Harlem's "Black Hitler"

The situation in Harlem burst in the face of New York with the abruptness of a rotten egg a fortnight ago when the complaints of Jewish merchants against Abdul Hamid. a Mohammedan racketeer, who is inciting the Negroes to picket Jewish merchants in the district and to boycott their stores, were made public.

DEFENDER

Samuel S. Leibowitz

While the source of all the trouble is basically economic, there is more than a suspicion among the Harlem merchants that somewhere behind the scenes Nazi encouragement is lurking in the present agitation. It is pointed out that a characteristic of Nazi warfare is first to divide one's enemies and then to take them on one at a time. What the dupes of the present plot fail to understand, however, is that when the Nazis no longer find their temporary allies necessary, they finish the job by mopping them up too.

If anyone has any doubt about the role that Nazi agitators are playing in the Harlem situation, let him but recall that on Sept. 7 this report appeared in one of the columns of the JEWISH EXAMINER:

The Nazis here are planning to start a whirlwind campaign this month. One of our confidential agents was told, "In September you will see what will happen here—then the real thing will start!"

And so it has. The Nazis have resumed their activities with an intensity and a scope that almost equals that of the official party in Berlin. While the Negro masses have suffered most acutely during recent years and are desperately eager to embrace any faith that promises to liberate them from the pauperization into which they have been thrust by discrimination, it is at the same time recognizable that the lower middle class Negroes are seizing upon the present opportunity to dislodge their lower middle class Jewish rivals from the Harlem scene, thus eliminating competition.

In recent months, sentiment in favor of a boycott against neighborhood merchants who refuse to employ colored workers has reached tremendous proportions. Certain opportunists and racketeers have taken advantage of the situation and have placed themselves at the head of the picket lines.

That the Jewish merchants are not entirely blameless in the affair has been disclosed upon investigation, which revealed that many Jewish establishments have employed few Negro help. A survey reveals that although there are 300,000 Negroes in Harlem few of them are employed there.

Responsible Negro organizations, like the Association for the Advancement of Colored People, and the local Negro press, have already taken steps to counteract the propaganda of Abdul Hamid and his followers, according to announcements by William H. Davis, publisher of the Amsterdam News, and Fred Moore, editor of the Negro weekly, the New York Age.

At a meeting of the newly organized Merchants Association of Harlem, comprising 200 Jewish merchants, it was stated that plans were being worked out to employ a proportional number of Negro workers on the basis of a system to be devised by the Merchants Association and responsible Negro associations, such as the Association for the Advancement of Colored People.

A committee has been appointed by the Merchants Association to handle Harlem merchants' complaints of picketing and intimidation. The committee, which is headed by Irving Waldman, Harlem shoe store owner, will meet a delegation of the Citizens' Committee for Fair Play, organization interested in obtaining employment for Negroes in Harlem shops, to arbitrate the situation. Should this fail, however, legal action will be taken against the leaders in one of the most deplorable situations that could possibly occur at a time when a solid united front of Negroes and Jews against their common persecutors is a vital necessity.

THREE IDENTIFIED BY VICTORIA PRICE AT BRIBERY TRIAL

Attorneys, Birmingham Man Plead Not Guilty At Huntsville Hearing

News

SCOTTSBORO WITNESS TELLS OF $1,000 OFFER

11-3-34

Defendants Held For Grand Jury After Testimony Of Woman Is Given

Birmingham

HUNTSVILLE, Ala.—(AP) —Mrs. Victoria Price, principal state witness in the Scottsboro case, Friday identified three men in a preliminary hearing as having called at her home to offer her a bribe to repudiate her testimony in seven trials that she was attacked.

Mrs. Price testified that Donald Swift and Sol Kone, attorneys of New York, and J. W. Peerson, of Birmingham, had called at her home here several times between the trials of Heywood Patterson and Clarence Norris, two of nine Negro defendants now under death sentence, at Decatur, and the arrest of the trio last September. The three defendants entered pleas of not guilty.

The three men were held to the Grand Jury at the close of the preliminary hearing. Judge Blanton fixed bail at $2,500 for each of the men.

Kone called at her house first, Mrs. Price testified. She testified that Kone told her there was a man at the postoffice who wanted to see her and "might be of some help to me.

"I told him to tell him if he wanted to see me, to come to my house, and be sure he came alone."

It was about an hour later, Mrs.

Price said, that Peerson appeared and introduced himself as "Charlie Price."

Peerson was invited in, she testified, and asked her what she thought of the Scottsboro case.

"I told him," Mrs. Price said, "I hope I'd see those Negroes burn."

"'Bosh'" she said Peerson replied, "'I know nothing is going to happen to them, because I have been talking to those New York fellows.'"

Mrs. Price testified then Peerson asked her if she would sign a paper for $500, and that she replied, "'I wouldn't pick up a pencil for that much.'"

In reply to a question from Peerson as to how much she would take, she said she replied, "Oh, about $2,000."

A week or so later, she said, Peerson accompanied by Swift, returned to her house and offered her $1,500 and she asked for time to think it over, meanwhile having notified officers that she was being approached with offers of money to sign a repudiation.

Mrs. Price said Peerson returned and told her Swift and Kone wanted her to be in the Tulane Hotel in Nashville at 7 p.m., that day, but that she couldn't leave and they arranged for a meeting the following afternoon.

With Jack Tiller, her bodyguard, accompanying her, Mrs. Price said she entered a car with Peerson the following afternoon, and that city police were stationed nearby where they could see what occurred.

Five miles out of the city, she testified, police halted the car and Peerson was arrested.

Only Peerson offered any testimony to rebut the state's charges.

Peerson called the Rev. John J. Milford, pastor of the First Baptist Church here, and G. R. McKinley, of Birmingham, who was among the spectators, as character witnesses.

Attorneys for the three men said it would be "two or three days" before bond could be posted to effect the release of the men. Judge Blanton declined to assent to a defense motion that bond be set at $1,000, purely on the merits of this case, "stripped of the publicity attendant on the Scottsboro case."

Mrs. Price identified each of the three defendants as having visited her home here to confer with her, and testified that the first offer of $500 to "sign a paper" had been raised to $1,500.

On cross-examination by Douglas Taylor, representing Swift and Kone, she admitted she had not read the paper she was asked to sign, and did not know its contents.

Peerson, she said, had told her it was an affidavit agreeing not to appear against the nine Negro defendants in the "Scottsboro case" in further trials, but that she could do so if she wanted to and also tell a jury that she had signed it to get the money.

Mrs. Price testified she had seen Swift and Kone at Decatur during the trials last Fall in which Heywood Patterson and Clarence Norris were convicted and sentenced to death.

Fred Robinson, a deputy sheriff on duty at Decatur, was called to corroborate Mrs. Price's testimony that she saw Swift and Kone in Decatur. He testified that he had seen them in the courthouse and that he had trailed them about town as they rode in a car.

Swift and Kone were represented by Frank Sheiner, of New York, and Dougles Taylor, of Huntsville, with M. U. Griffin, of Huntsville, defending J. W. Peerson. Solicitor James H. Pride is conducting the state's case.

It is within the jurisdiction of the court to release the men if the state's evidence is considered insufficient, or to bind them over to await the action of the Madison County Grand Jury.

Peerson was arrested near here in company with Mrs. Price Sept. 29, after the woman had tipped officers she allegedly had been offered $1,000 to repudiate her testimony and that she would leave Huntsville that day for Nashville, Tenn., in company with the man to collect the money.

Mrs. Price told officers at the time that Peerson said it would be necessary to go to Nashville to meet Swift and Kone and sign an affidavit before she received the money.

Swift and Kone were taken into custody at a Nashville hotel Sept. 30, and after a hearing, Gov. McAlister, of Tennessee, honored the requisition of Gov. Miller for the two men to answer attempted bribery charges here.

The men were rushed to the state line while a Nashville attorney retained in their behalf, sought a writ of habeas corpus in their behalf.

Tennessee authorities Friday hold $1,500 which a deputy sheriff said he found in his automobile after Kone and Swift had been taken to jail in it, but both men denied ownership of the money.

All three men have been held in jail here, pending the preliminary hearing.

Ford Urges Quick Aid In Scottsboro Fight

Daily Worker

Funds Needed Immediately, Negro Communist Leader Points Out, Calling for Mass Mobilization to Back Actions in Court

By James W. Ford

Communist Party Organizer, Harlem Section

Today two of the Scottsboro mothers, Mrs. Ida Norris, mother of Clarence, and Mrs. Viola Montgomery, mother of Olen Montgomery, together with a broad representative committee brought together under the auspices of the National Scottsboro-Herndon Action Committee, are in Washington to demand that President Roosevelt take action to prevent the legal lynching of Haywood Patterson and Clarence Norris on Dec. 7.

At the same time, the International Labor Defense is taking every legal step possible to bring about a reversal of the verdict in the U. S. Supreme Court.

11-15-34

These are necessary steps in the fight to save the Scottsboro boys, in the fight against the oppression and lynching of Negroes, in the fight for their national liberation.

But without the mass fight which must be conducted, these legal steps will not avail. Millions must be organized within the next few weeks, to raise a shout of protest that will stay the hand of the lynchers.

New York N.Y.

Every Negro worker, every white worker, must put his shoulder to this task. Meetings, demonstrations, parades, and every sort of demonstrative action must be organized.

This is our immediate task in the fight for Negro liberation. Let us immediately put our energies into this campaign to make it a success.

At the same time, we must defeat the attempts of the lynchers and their allies to cripple the defense financially. Six thousand dollars are needed immediately by the I. L. D. to carry on the legal and mass campaign.

JAMES W. FORD

Rush funds by airmail, telegraph, special delivery, for the Scottsboro-Herndon fund, to the national office of the International Labor Defense, Room 610, 80 East 11th Street, New York City.

W. L. Patterson in Cable Asks Fund to Save Scottsboro Boys

Daily Worker 11-14-34

From the sanatorium in the Crimea, U.S.S.R., where he is recovering his health shattered by strain and overwork in leading the International Labor Defense through the fight to save the lives of the Scottsboro boys, William L. Patterson, national secretary of the I.L.D., has sent a cable calling on the broadest masses for support to the defense at this critical moment. The text of his cable follows:

"Publish immediate following appeal to all workers Negro white all lovers of justice all opposed to lynching. The Scottsboro boys must be freed. The lynchers holocaust set December seven for Haywood erson Clarence Norris must be nted. Millions must be mobil- to stay the lynchers hand. g fund must be obtained at safeguard legal and mass campaign to save boys. Storm the whited sepulchres of White House and Supreme Court with protests. Smash the prison bars that hold nine innocent Negro boys. Support I.L.D. drive for Scottsboro Herndon fund with immediate contributions.

"William L. Patterson."

Rush all funds by airmail, telegraph, special delivery, to the national office of the International Labor Defense, Room 610, 80 E. 11th St., New York City, for the $6,000 Scottsboro-Herndon funds.

Lynchings- 1934
Legal Punishment for Rape.

Alabama

4683

Southern Lynchers Use Leibowitz as Tool Against Negro Upsurge

Communist Candidate for Governor Analyzes Aid of Renegade Lawyers and Negro Reformists to Southern Ruling Class

By Israel Amter

Communist Candidate for Governor of New York

The shameful game that the Leibowitzes and Chamlees are playing in the Scottsboro case is clear and proved by the records. But this need astonish nobody. These people are typical products of a corrupt capitalist society. The Leibowitzes have no other principles except to make money and to get laurels, which can be transformed into money. Leibowitz, who, as a famous gangster lawyer, made hundreds of thousands of dollars—without doubt he is a very able criminal lawyer, able in every regard — wants to play a political role. Perhaps he hopes to become a Supreme Court judge, or a Democratic Party candidate for some high position. All this is clear.

That he is leading Chamlee, the Southern lawyer, like a dog on a leash can also be explained by definite reasons, by the political chameleon character of Chamlee.

But important as these types consider themselves to be, they are interesting only as typical juridical products of this corrupt capitalist society. If one could criticize the International Labor Defense, one could do so only in this regard, that, despite the necessity to employ legal specialists, versed in all of the forms and trickery of the capitalist courts, nevertheless the I.L.D. must be much more cautious in the employment of lawyers. We agree with the I.L.D. that it is very difficult in this corrupt society to say at any given moment what a lawyer, bound by a thousand threads to the capitalist courts and law, will do and the greatest caution cannot sometimes prevent such Leibowitz and Chamlee incidents. Lenin wrote very often about these dangers connected with the necessity of employing lawyers.

katman

The Main Issue

But these types and their methods are not the main question at the present stage of the Scottsboro case. Nothing would be more dangerous than to submerge the real essence of these attacks on the I. L. D. and the Communist Party in the necessity of unmasking the methods of these types.

Much more important than the explanation of the shoddiness of such instruments as the Leibowitzes and the Chamlees is the necessity of making clear what really is at issue.

What was and what is the issue in the Scottsboro case? The lives of nine Negro boys are chosen for extinction in the true manner of the Southern lynch-mad slaveholders, to prove to the Negroes that they have to remain a suppressed and "inferior" nation. With the killing of these boys, the Southern lynch ruling class wants to demonstrate to the awakened Negro masses by the worst form of terror that the old spirit of the slaveholders is unbroken, living and powerful. And as the treatment of the Negroes throughout the U. S., including the North, shows, this spirit is the policy of the entire ruling class, though in a more concealed form.

The Issue of Negro Liberation

What did the Communist Party and the I. L. D. do when the Scottsboro case first began? With all their strength, with all their force and ability they took up the issue of the defense of the lives of the nine boys, and made it an issue of the liberation of millions of Negro lives; a matter of the liberation of the Negroes, and an offensive against the growing lynch terror to which the Negroes are subjected.

In this struggle, in the United States and in all countries of the world, millions of white and Negro people were drawn in. Ever greater Negro and white masses recognized that the liberation of the Negroes, the extinction of the slaveholding traditions, the annihilation of the pestilential stink of the suppression of the Negroes, this parallel to Hitler's suppression of the Jews in Germany, against which a whole world is arising, is one of the most important tasks in the struggle for freedom of the American working class.

Without fighting for the liberation of the Negroes, no serious steps can be taken in the development of the revolutionary struggle as a whole.

The liberation struggle of the Negroes is the ally of the proletarian revolution. This is becoming understood more and more by the white workers. At the same time it is more consciously recognized by the awakening Negro masses—that theis struggle is inseparably connected with the struggle of the whole working class.

Rulers Fear as Masses Learn

The campaign around the Scottsboro case has educated broad Negro masses, has opened their eyes to the truth that not by lying down and submitting, but only through the fiercest struggle lies the way to freedom from race oppression.

The Southern ruling class sees with anger and fear how thoughts of liberation of the Negroes are breaking out in all strata of the toiling population of the United States. The whole American bourgeoisie sees with growing disturbance that the Negro question tears off the whole lying hypocritical mask of bourgeois democracy. The Scottsboro case has brought to a head this whole question in the most concentrated form.

And so the bourgeoisie in the South, as well as in the North, would like to wrest the Scottsboro case from the heart and fists of the millions. They are afraid of the mobilization, the agitation. They want by all means to discredit in the eyes of the Negro masses the only Party, the Communist Party, that has written on its banners, "The liberation of the Negro masses," because this Party is the deadly enemy of this capitalist society which enslaves the Negroes.

Seek to Stifle Upsurge

By attempting this the ruling class utilizes such instruments as Leibowitz and professional misleaders of the Negroes, groups of Negro reformist preachers.

With the help of such forces they try to stop the mass mobilization for the Scottsboro boys. They strive to prevent, from every town and hamlet in the United States and throughout the world, the rising cry: "America! What are you doing with these nine Negro boys!"

The official lynchers are using the Leibowitzes and these cliques of Negro reformists to silence the growing upsurge of Negroes and whites. They want to divert the attention, the watchfulness, the activity of the broadest masses against the lynchers and their lynch system.

That the Leibowitzes, those politicians in the Democratic Party, in the traditional Party of slavery and lynching, play their role with the greatest pleasure is quite natural. Mr. Leibowitz is after all a Party friend of the Southern lynch officials, Talmadge, Governor of Georgia, and Miller, Governor of Alabama. And we remember the old proverbs: One crow doesn't pick out another crow's eye. Birds of a feather flock together.

But it is incredibly shameful that there are Negroes, themselves people of an oppressed nation, who offer themselves to play the role of a screen behind which the lynchers can carry on their dirty business.

It was always the tactic of a suppressing class or nation to take from the ranks of the suppressed, through bribery and other means foremen and overseers to aid them in supervising and oppressing their brothers. That is the role which is played now in the present stage of the Scottsboro case by groups of Negro reformists working with Leibowitz and the Southern lynch officials. This is a shameful treason to the cause of the liberation of the Negroes.

But these gentlemen, and the Leibowitzes, and the true mastering minds in this whole game, the Southern lynchers, are mistaken. The strength of the attacks, the dirtiness of their methods, the extent of their lying and cheating, show only one thing: that the movement for the liberation of the Negro masses and for the Scottsboro boys is marching on. Nobody can stop it. No criminal lawyers of this decaying and stinking corrupt society; no treacherous so-called Negro leaders, will be able to do it.

The struggle for the liberation of the Scottsboro boys must be intensified. And we Communists say loud and clearly: Yes, more masses, new millions, more demonstrations, more agitation, more awakening of white and Negro in this struggle. The Scottsboro boys must live. The cause of the liberation of the Negroes must be carried on. It is a difficult struggle, yes. But never in history was the liberation struggle of a class, or of a nation an easy one.

PATTERSON AND NORRIS WANT I.L.D.

Daily Worker

Mass Protest Parade for Scottsboro Boys in New York Today

11-3-34

NEW YORK.—Only a few weeks remain in which to defeat the ruling of the Alabama Supreme Court decreeing December 7th for the legal murder of Haywood Patterson and Clarence Norris, two of the Scottsboro boys, the International Labor Defense warned yesterday in calling for the greatest mass support for the city-wide Scottsboro protest march and demonstration through the streets of Harlem this afternoon, starting at 1:30 o'clock from 126th Street and Lenox Avenue.

New York, N.Y.

The I. L. D., which has full charge of the defense, at the same time appealed for funds to push the appeals for Patterson and Norris in the U. S. Supreme Court, with which the I. L. D. attorneys have already filed an application for review of the appeals. Both Patterson and Norris, in a letter dated Nov. 1 to Joseph R. Brodsky, chief counsel of the I. L. D., declare that they want Walter Pollak, outstanding constitutional attorney, and Osmond Fraenkel, noted appeals lawyer, to argue their appeals, under the supervision of the I. L. D., in the U. S. Supreme Court. "This is my last and final decision and will not be changed with my consent," declare each of the boys, with the additional statement that "all arrangements to the contrary are hereby cancelled." A photostat of their letter appears in this issue of the Daily Worker.

Many Organizations Join Call

The I. L. D. warning was supplemented by scores of New York organizations, which issued urgent calls to their members and sympathizers for a mighty mass outpouring this afternoon to halt the legal lynching and smash the conspiracy, engineered by Samuel S. Leibowitz, renegade defense attorney, and a group of Harlem Negro misleaders, acting in concert with Alabama lynch officials to scuttle the defense at this critical moment. In a call issued yesterday by its New York District, the Communist Party called upon every member and sympathizer of the Party to "demonstrate, march for the freedom of the Scottsboro boys, against lynching and Negro oppression—against the lynchers and their agents."

Appeal Issued to Needle Trades Workers

Daily Worker 11-3-34

A similar call for action was issued to all needle trades workers by an emergency joint board meeting of the Needle Trades Workers' Industrial Union, held Thursday night to discuss plans for today's demonstration. The union distributed 10,000 leaflets yesterday in the needle trades market, and held special shop meetings appealing to the workers to turn out in full force for the demonstration. It predicted that thousands of needle trades workers will take part in today's action. The joint trade board meeting unanimously voted to send telegrams to President Roosevelt, the U. S. Supreme Court and Governor L. M. Miller of Alabama demanding the freedom and safety of the nine innocent boys.

Appeals to their memberships to support the demonstration were also issued by the International Workers Order, the Associated Workers Clubs, Inc., the Young Communist League, the Workers Ex-Servicemen's League, the League of Struggle for Negro Rights, the Trade Union Unity Council, Unemployment Councils, Women's Councils, and the National Scottsboro-Herndon Action Committee, of which William N. Jones of the staff of the Baltimore Afro-American is chairman.

Four Scottsboro Mothers to Speak

The demonstration will be addressed by four of the Scottsboro mothers who are here to mobilize mass support for the boys and to expose the conspiracy to wreck the defense, and by Angelo Herndon, hero of the Atlanta, Ga., "insurrection" trial, now out on $15,000 bail raised by Negro and white workers, Israel Amter, Communist candidate for Governor of New York; James W. Ford, Communist candidate in the 21st Congressional District, and other veterans in the fight for the Scottsboro boys and the rights of the Negro people.

The demonstration will not only demand the release of the boys, but will protest the fiendish lynching of Claude Neal last Saturday night in Florida and demand the death penalty for Florida and Alabama officials and others involved in the crime. It will also protest the attempt of Atlanta, Ga., authorities to railroad eight Negro members of the International Labor Defense to the electric chair on the same charge of "insurrection" on which Herndon was framed up for his activities in uniting Negro and white workers to fight for relief.

All Out Today!

Organizations participating in the demonstration are asked to assemble promptly at 1:30 o'clock today at the following points:

Organizations from Harlem, Yorkville and the West-side sections at 126th St. and Lenox Ave., east of Lenox Ave., organizations from the Bronx at 127th St., east of Lenox; organizations from mid-town and downtown Manhattan and from Brooklyn at 128th St., east of Lenox.

All out today! The Scottsboro Boys Shall Not Die! Defend the elementary human rights of the oppressed Negro People! Smash Fascist lynch terror! Build the fighting unity of the Negro and white workers: against their common oppressors!

Protest in California

LOS ANGELES, Nov. 2. — The second of a series of Sunday afternoon mass meetings to rally wide support for the framed Scottsboro boys will be held this Sunday, 2.30 o'clock at Lincoln Memorial Church, Vernon and Hooper Avenue. The meetings are organized by the Scottsboro Action Committee, with headquarters at 3015 S. San Pedro Street, and will be conducted throughout the present critical period in the fight for the boys.

* * *

Detroit Meeting Called

DETROIT, Mich., Nov. 2.—A mass rally for the Scottsboro boys will be held here Friday evening, Nov 16th. The place will be announced later. All organizations are urged to keep this date open.

* * *

Rally Held in Church

PHILADELPHIA, Nov. 2. — Five hundred and fifty persons, Negro and white, attended a spirited Scottsboro-Herndon rally last Tuesday night at the White Rock Baptist Church, in West Philadelphia. Forty persons joined the International Labor Defense. Although many in the audience were unemployed, $23 was contributed in response to an appeal or funds to push the appeals to the U. S. Supreme Court.

Another defense rally will be held this Sunday, 2 o'clock, at 4032 Germantown Avenue, with Ruby Bates star defense witness, and William R Powell, District Organizer of the I. L. D. as speakers. Bates and Powell will also address a conference of the Russian Mutual Aid Society at 995 N. 5th Street, at one o'clock the same day. On Monday, 8 p.m., they will speak at a mass meeting at 8640 Eastwick Avenue.

On Nov. 12, one hundred lawyers and intellectuals, organized by William N. Jones, chairman of the National Scottsboro-Herndon Action Committee, will hold a defense meeting.

Other defense rallies in the district include, Lebanon, Pa., Nov. 7; Reading, Pa., Nov. 8; Chester, Pa., Nov. 9; Wilkes Barre, Nov. 16 and Scranton. Nov. 17.

Coins Fall Slowly at I. L. D. Meeting Here

Only 300 Persons Listen to Bitter Attacks on Leibowitz at Scottsboro Assemblage

For an hour and eleven minutes, Ben Davis, Jr., had attacked Samuel S. Leibowitz. From every angle he had thrown punches at the new defense counsel of the Scottsboro boys. In passing, he had taken a few shots at William H. Davis, the Rev. Lorenzo H. King, the Harlem ministry as a whole and The Amsterdam News. And then he came to the business of the evening.

"Who'll give $10 to support the International Labor Defense and run Sam Lebbowitz out of the Scottsboro case?" he demanded.

Amsterdam News

From the 300 people who attended the I. L. D. protest meeting at Rockland Palace last Friday night—the 300 which on many previous occasions had been 5,000 and more—came silence.

11-3-34

Mr. Davis repeated his demand. The audience maintained its silence. On the platform behind Mr. Davis several prospective speakers shifted uneasily. Mrs. Ada Wright—the mother of two Scottsboro boys, who was to speak later and tell of her sons' unshakeable confidence in Mr. Leibowitz—looked at her copy of The Amsterdam News. Its headline read: "I. L. D. NEGLIGENCE MAY DOOM PATTERSON, LAWYERS CHARGE." More than a hundred members of the audience held copies of this paper also.

Drops to $5.

Mr. Davis compromised. "Who'll gives $5 to fight Sam Lebbowitz?" he asked.

More silence. Up and down the aisles a score of would-be-collectors took up the cry. "Who'll give $5 to fight Sam Lebbowitz and help the I. L. D. keep the defense of the Scottsboro boys?" Silence again. Mrs. Wright handed her copy of The Amsterdam News to Mrs. Ida Norris, whose son, Clarence, had refused to heed her pleas to desert Mr. Leibowitz for the I. L. D.

Mr. Davis became a bit agitated. "Comrades," he demanded, "are we serious?" And receiving no answer, he retrenched again. "Who'll give $2 to fight Sam Lebbowitz?" There were no replies.

Amsterdam

Finally Mr. Davis dropped to $1. A few scattered bills appeared. The coin trays "for the workers' nickels and dimes" were then passed. The speaker announced that one $2 contribution had been received. Fifteen minutes later he stated that the League of Struggle for Negro Rights, a Communist affiliate, had pledged $8. The total collection was not announced.

11-3-34

The 300 people who had sat patiently through nearly three hours of speechmaking by Davis, Angelo Herndon, and Sam Patterson, Harlem campaign manager for the Communist Party in the coming elections, grew uneasy. More than a score of them started for the doors. Mr. Davis temporarily halted the exodus by introducing the first of the four women who were presented as Scottsboro mothers.

Mothers Speak.

They said that she was Mrs. Josephine Powell. She laid aside the copy of the newspaper which had been handed to her and said: "I want you all to remember that the I. L. D. was the first to visit the boys in jail and begin the fight for their freedom, and I want you all to stick by the I. L. D." Then she sat down.

The next woman was introduced as Mrs. Viola Montgomery. She, too.

SCOTTSBORO APPEAL TO GO TO ROOSEVELT

Delegation Will Visit Capital to Demand Boys' Freedom

Daily Worker 11-6-34

A national delegation of prominent Negro and white liberals, together with representatives of various working class organizations, will go to Washington on Nov. 12 to demand of President Roosevelt that he immediately issue an executive order to halt the execution of the Scottsboro boys.

This action was decided upon by the National Scottsboro-Herndon Action Committee, which will sponsor the delegation. The Committee pointed out that the President's power to comply with this demand was proved from established precedent and by quotation from the fundamental laws of the country in the pamphlet "Mr. President, Free the Scottsboro Boys," published by the International Labor Defense a few months ago.

Appeals for Funds

The committee at the same time issued an appeal for militant support of the fight led by the International Labor Defense to prevent the legal murder of Haywood Patterson and Clarence Norris on Dec. 7, as decreed by the Alabama Supreme Court. It called for stormy mass demonstrations throughout the country, delegations to local officials and city councils demanding they protest the outrage. It urged all real friends of the Scottsboro boys and the Negro people to rush contributions to the I. L. D., Room 610, 80 E. 11th St., New York City, to finance the legal and mass campaign. "It has been conclusively shown," the committee declared at its last meeting, "that the I. L. D. is the organization chosen for their defense by the boys and their mothers, who have declared their final and definite repudiation of Samuel Leibowitz and the Negro misleaders who shamelessly attempted to scuttle the defense at this critical moment."

Seven Countries Set Scottsboro Day

The sister organizations of the International Labor Defense in seven Caribbean and Central American countries have set aside Nov. 27 as a day of struggle and demonstration for the lives and freedom of the Scottsboro boys, according to information which has come to the I. L. D. offices here, it was announced yesterday.

The seven countries in which this date has been definitely set aside as "Scottsboro Day" are Mexico, Cuba, Colombia, Porto Rico, Costa Rica, Panama and Ecuador.

Alabama

Lynchings-1934
Legal Punishment for Rape.

4684

Leibowitz's Causes Surprise Among Harlemites

Afro-American

Restaurant Owner Hopes Scottsboro Attorney Will Reconsider.

10-13-34

ATTORNEY SAYS ACTION A SUBTERFUGE

Baltimore, Md.

Knew of I.L.D. Activities Is Claim.

NEW YORK.—Speculation as to Samuel Leibowitz's real reasons for withdrawing from the Scottsboro case was rife in Harlem following the published notices of his withdrawal.

A general sentiment of regret was expressed by Harlemites at his action.

Herbert L. Bruce, proprietor of the Monterey restaurant on the corner of West 137th Street and Seventh Avenue, said:

"I believe that Mr. Leibowitz has given very valuable services to the cause of the Scottsboro boys and it is regrettable that at this time particularly, they should lose the services of this very capable lawyer. We hope that Mr. Leibowitz will reconsider his decision, return to the case, and accomplish what he started out to do, to save those boys' lives."

Million Dollars in Advertising

John M. Griggs, attorney, stated: "It's just a subterfuge. He knew at the time he entered the case that the I.L.D. was in charge of the matter, and he was quite familiar, as everyone else was, with the fact that they were engaged in extensive propaganda. He remained in the case after the I.L.D. had staged its demonstration in Washington, during the sitting with the Supreme Court.

"He knows that these cases cannot be successfully defended without financing, and it's necessary for these people to hold paid mass meetings in order to raise the necessary money, if they can't secure it otherwise. The N.A.A.C.P. had withdrawn from the case prior to his entry, practically on the same grounds on which he bases his withdrawal.

"He has secured about a million dollars in advertisement on the case, and now he proceeds to run out on the defense."

"It's a frame-up," declared Louis Harris, white Communist, who is an active member of the League of Struggle for Negro Rights. "Leibowitz has betrayed the working classes. The matter of bribing Victoria Price was also a frame-up."

Shows Poor Ethics

Richard Thomas, social worker, said:

"Leibowitz knew that the Communists were behind the case when he entered. He knew their militant tactics, and he even took part in at least one of their demonstrations with Ruby Bates, up here in Harlem. I think he shows poor ethics to leave the Scottsboro boys high and dry."

Thinks Leibowitz Justified

The comment of Vertner W. Tandy, architect, was:

"In all probability, Mr. Leibowitz is justified in taking the stand he has. I am not familiar with all the intimate details of the case, and there are doubtless elements in it which cannot be known by the general public.

"Perhaps the Communists have been too ambitious in their zeal for good, and the reaction has evidently been most unpleasant for Mr. Leibowitz."

New Defense Is Supported By Ministers

Amsterdam News

While giving full credit to the International Labor Defense for the work that the organization has done in the Scottsboro case, the ministers of Harlem hailed the latest change in the defense yesterday and pledged unqualified support to Attorney Samuel S. Leibowitz. 10-13-34

The Interdenominational Preachers' Meeting of New York and Vicinity, which earlier adopted a resolution begging Attorney Leibowitz to stay in the case, when he threatened to withdraw following differences with the I. L. D., pledged the resources of its many churches to the famed criminal attorney and stated:

New York

"We endorse his manly stand for principle, for justice, for the ethical practices of the law and" his broad humanity as shown in the brave and unrelenting fight in the now famous Scottsboro case. We think it the course of wisdom on the part of the public to endorse the position of Mr. Leibowitz and, at the same time, to pledge him our support in the case."

The Rev. John W. Robinson is chairman of the executive committee of this strong ministerial body and the Rev. A. C. Garner is acting secretary. The resolution passed Wednesday.

[illegible] committee of fo[illegible] minister[illegible] [illegible] conferred with [illegible]ney Leibowitz and sent two of its members to the South to help effect the change in the defense endorsed the new defense heartily. The Rev. Lorenzo H. King, who with the Rev. Richard Manuel Bolden went to Chattanooga to secure the consent of the parents of the boys to the change, said:

"The question of justice can no longer be befuddled by the Alabama courts. They have hidden behind the question of Communism and have attempted to direct attention to that party while denying justice to the boys. The Communists are out now and the issue is squarely up to the Alabama courts. The case of these innocent boys must now be decided solely on its merits." The pastor of St. Mark's M. E. Church was loud in his praise of Mr. Leibowitz.

10-13-34
New York

The Rev. Mr. Bolden, pastor of the First Emanuel Church, who helped organize the first Clergyman-Citizens Committee for moral and financial support of the case soon after Mr. Leibowitz's first appearance in the Decatur courtroom, said:

"In going to Chattanooga to see the parents of these boys last week, as a member of the committee of four, I am quite certain that Counselor Samuel Leibowitz, with the former Attorney-General of the State of Tennessee, George W. Chamlee, can do more toward saving these boys from execution than anyone else. Therefore, I am praying that all clergymen who are interested in Justice and all other good citizens who believe in human rights will give their untiring support to Mr. Leibowitz."

The Rev. Mr. Garner, who heads the Grace Congregational Church, stated: "I have no desire to take any credit from the International Labor Defense, which has done excellent work in a fight which deeply concerns us all. But as the situation stands at present (the attempted bribery charges against two I. L. D. representatives), I am convinced that a greater service can be rendered the boys by having the defense represented by Attorney Leibowitz.

"His courage, his honesty and his sincere interest in securing freedom for these unfortunate youths cannot be questioned. I know that he will receive the support which he deserves in this monumental undertaking."

The Rev. J. W. Brown, fourth member of the committee which was assembled on the suggestion of William H. Davis, general manager of The Amsterdam News, was out of town yesterday and could not be reached for a statement, but before leaving he heartily endorsed the new defense and pledged his support to the impending campaign to raise funds.

The ministers were still completing plans yesterday for a national appeal for funds to carry the cases of Haywood, Patterson and Clarence Norris to the United States Supreme Court and to continue with the fight in the Alabama courts. Although the ministry will take the lead in raising the funds, other organizations and individuals wil be invited to join the campaign.

All Scottsboro Defenders Battle To Retain Jobs

Advertiser
10-13-34

NEW YORK, Oct. 12.—(AP)—Suave jockeying to determine what legal camp shall represent the Scottsboro defendants in their efforts to escape death in the electric chair continued tonight with two factions claiming to have been retained in the case.

The International Labor Defense announced its chief counsel in the case, Osmond K. Fraenkel, had received letters dated Oct. 8 in which Clarence Norris and Haywood Patterson, two of the defendants, asked him to carry their fight before the United States Supreme Court.

Montgomery, Ala.

Almost simultaneously, Samuel S. Liebowitz, who defended the negroes at their second trial on charges of assaulting a white girl, announced receipt of a letter from Norris, dated Oct. 10, in which the negro asked him to take full charge of the case. Leibowitz said Norris indicated Patterson concurred in the wish.

Apprised of the Leibowitz announcement, Fraenkel declared the I. L. D.'s chief concern was "for the welfare of the defendants" and he did not wish to engage in any controversy.

"If the boys cannot make up their minds," he said, "I think some disinterested party should interview them at the prison and help them decide on whom they want to defend them.

"The boys have asked me to represent them, and until they tell me they do not want me I am going ahead with the case."

Fraenkel said he planned to apply to the Supreme Court for a review of the case, in which Norris, Patterson and eight others have been sentenced to death, early next month. Fraenkel was associated with Walter H. Pollak in a previous Supreme Court hearing that led to a re-trial.

Meanwhile, a group of clergymen and laymen formed themselves into the "American Scottsboro committee" and announced they would side with Leibowitz.

After expressing belief in the innocence of the accused negroes, the committee declared it was "not connected with the International Labor Defense or any other radical organization." Bill Robinson, negro dancer, was named chairman of the theatrical division.

On the other hand, the National Committee for the Defense of Political Prisoners, which claims to have contributed more than $10,000 to the defense, rallied to the I. L. D. cause. Fraenkel's letters, said the committee, "serve amply to show that the boys wish to be defended by the I. L. D., as they have been since April, 1931."

The Boys Must Not Die!

AN EDITORIAL

After conducting the defense of the nine Scottsboro boys since April 10, 1931, the International Labor Defense, an organization whose chief strength lies in its Communist adherents and its support from liberals and working-class groups, has been forced to relinquish its assignment as representative of the nine youths for whose blood Alabama "justice" thirsts. Authorization has just been given Samuel Leibowitz, chief defense counsel and trial attorney since early last year as the sole legal representative of four of the boys. Two of these are Heywood Patterson and Clarence Norris, whose notices of appeal against the Alabama Supreme Court's ruling affirming their death sentences have been filed with the United States Supreme Court. Two others, Andy and Roy Wright, awaiting retrial or the outcome of the cases of Patterson and Norris, through their mother, have also authorized Mr. Leibowitz to act for them. The fate of the five others rests upon the outcome of the cases of Mr. Leibowitz's clients.

Mr. Leibowitz proposes to effect the organization of a national defense committee of white and colored individuals and groups who believe that the Scottsboro boys are innocent victims of race prejudice. This committee will address itself to the task of raising funds to continue the fight. Already there is evidence that the boys will not lack for support.

This newest phase of the world-famous case—famous because the I. L. D. and the Communist party employed it as a powerful instrument for revolutionary propaganda—has come as a result of Mr. Leibowitz's refusal to continue as counsel while the I. L. D. and Communist agitators play an official role in the drama. His stand was taken after three white men, J. W. Pearson of Birmingham and Daniel Swift and Sol Kone of New York, were arrested in Tennessee and Alabama on charges of attempting to bribe Victoria Price, Scottsboro case complainant, to change her story of the alleged attack. Mr. Leibowitz contends (and with evidence which is conclusive) that the Communist party has exploited the Scottsboro case to spread the proletarian gospel of Moscow. He also charges that the radicals have collected thousands in the name of Scottsboro to maintain the disciples of Lenin and Marx.

The Communists counter by saying that Mr. Leibowitz is merely jealous because he was not selected to argue the Patterson and Norris appeals before the United States Supreme Court.

The Amsterdam News believes that the position of the boys has improved immeasurably because they have shaken off the grip of the radicals. The I. L. D must be credited with preserving the life-line of the youths. On the other hand, we maintain that the arrest of the men in the South (one was associated with the office of Joseph R. Brodsky, chief counsel of the I. L. D.) imperils the chances of the nine defendants and destroys the future usefulness of the I. L. D. in this case. This fact remains regardless of the innocence or guilt of the bribery suspects.

Out of this maze of charges and circumstances there emerge these facts: **Some of the Scottsboro boys will burn in the chair at Alabama's Kilby Prison unless black and white continue the fight to liberate them. Scores of other Negroes await the same fate unless we win a victory which will establish the right (and practice) of fair trials for black people in all the United States.**

Ruby Bates, who recanted her first testimony that she was attacked, the National Association for the Advancement of Colored and other groups have sworn that their sole objective is to obtain justice for the boys. We invite and implore them to continue in the struggle.

The Scottsboro boys must not die!

SCOTTSBORO BOYS FACE DEATH

Defender 10-13-34

Two of the nine colored youths, found guilty of criminal attack upon a young white woman on a freight train near Scottsboro, Alabama, during the summer of 1931, and whose death sentences were affirmed some time ago by the Alabama Supreme Court, were denied a rehearing last week by the same court and the date of their execution set for December 7, 1934.

This decision by the highest legal tribunal in Alabama means that the only thing that stands between these two hapless and apparent innocent boys and electrocution is executive clemency or a favorable opinion from the United States Supreme Court when the case is appealed to that august body.

For over three years the country has literally been "fed up" on this Scottsboro fiasco, and with one of the "outraged" white girls repudiating her testimony given at the original trial and making a deposition setting forth the fact that neither girl was attacked by the colored youths (that the rape hoax was concocted in jail to escape vagrancy charges), many persons have serious doubts of the boys' guilt. Houston

The case has resolved itself into a legal battle to uphold and perpetuate the caste system in Alabama, which feeds the spirit of mobocracy and keeps alive the fires of racial prejudice, hatred and antipathy.

One of the trial judges, upon his own motion, granted a new trial last year to one of the condemned Scottsboro boys, and because he dared to uphold the American tradition of a fair and impartial trial, he was defeated for renomination and re-election during the Democratic party primary elections held in the Lizard State during the past summer.

Even though it appears that these unfortunate colored lads are the victims of a legal frameup, as far as the courts of Alabama are concerned they are headed to sure and certain death, for finis has been written to the chapter by the legal tribunals of that state.

It would be a national shame to permit these two colored youths to be sacrificed in the electric chair to the barbaric customs and hunnish practices of bourbon Alabama, but such will be their untimely fate and bitter end if the United States Supreme Court does not act favorably upon their appeal.

It is no time now to discuss the merits or demerrits of legal procedure on the part of the boys' attorneys, but all forces must unite and work to one given end—not only to save these two boys from impending death in the eletric chair, but to uphold and safeguard American ideals and institutions, which are menaced and imperiled by such travesties upon justice as the now infamous Scottsboro fiasco.

SCOTTSBORO FIGHT TO GO TO ROOSEVELT

Daily Worker 11-13-34

New York

A national delegation, including three of the Scottsboro mothers, will arrive in Washington, D. C., on Wednesday afternoon to place before President Roosevelt a demand that he intervene to secure the release of the nine innocent Scottsboro boys, and the arrest, prosecution and punishment of Alabama and Florida officials and others involved in the lynching of Claude Neal, 24-year-old Negro youth, on Oct. 27. The demand is backed by tens of thousands of signatures and protest resolutions from all parts of the country.

The New York contingent of the delegation will leave New York City at 4 o'clock Wednesday morning, it was announced yesterday by the National Scottsboro-Herndon Action Committee, which is sponsoring the delegation of noted Negro and white liberals and labor leaders to protest the frame-up and lynch death verdicts against the Scottsboro boys and the rise of lynching under the "New Deal." At Philadelphia, Baltimore, Wilmington and Washington, the New York contingent will be joined by delegates from those cities.

The Scottsboro mothers who will accompany the delegation are Mrs. Ida Norris, Mrs. Ada Wright and Mrs. Viola Montgomery. Mrs. Norris is the mother of Clarence Norris, for whom, with Haywood Pattersou, the Alabama Supreme Court has set Dec. 7 as the date for their legal murder. The delegation will be headed by William F. Jones, of the staff of the Baltimore Afro-American, and chairman of the National Scottsboro-Herndon Action Committee.

The Action Committee yesterday called on all organizations and friends of the Scottsboro boys and the Negro people to send telegrams immediately to President Roosevelt demanding that he see the delegation, and use his authority to prevent the legal lynching of Norris and Patterson on Dec. 7 and to secure the unconditional and safe releases of all nine of the boys.

The delegation is endorsed by the International Labor Defense, which is now conducting a drive for $6,000 to defray the expenses of the appeal for Patterson and Norris to the U. S. Supreme Court. Both boys have signed new retainers, giving the I. L. D. complete charge of their defense and repudiating the attempts of Samuel S. Leibowitz, and a group of Harlem Negro reformist leaders to disrupt the defense at this critical stage in the long fight conducted by the I. L. D. for the lives and freedom of the framed-up boys and the rights of the Negro people.

Alabama.

Lynchings-1934
Legal Punishment for Rape.

4685

Communists and Scottsboro

Daily Worker

HEYWOOD PATTERSON and Clarence Norris, two of the Scottsboro boys, from the death house at Kilby Prison, Montgomery, Alabama, have issued sworn statements that they want the International Labor Defense and its lawyers exclusively to handle their defense. They decisively repudiate the shyster tactics of those who would wrest the legal side of their defense from the hands of the working class. The statements of Patterson and Norris, condemned to death by the Alabama Jim-Crow courts of the capitalist class, make it more difficult for Samuel Leibowitz, and the Negro preacher misleaders, to disrupt the Scottsboro Boys' legal defense.

10-17-34

The Daily Worker and the Communist Party were the first to call the attention of the masses to this now famous case. The Communist Party saw at once that the nine Scottsboro boys were the innocent victims of a frame-up by the Southern lynch courts which are controlled by the employing class and its lynch gangs. The Communist Party since that time and to the present moment, has exerted every effort to rally millions of toilers to the defense of these young Negro boys. The mass campaign, launched by the Communist Party and carried on by the International Labor Defense, has stayed the hands of the lynch courts for three and a half long years, while every agency of the Southern bourbons, has cried out that the Scottsboro boys must burn.

New York

For three and one half years, the mass power of the working class of the whole world has kept these innocent Negro boys alive. At every step in the case the Negro reformist misleaders, the Uncle Toms, who fawn for crumbs from the bosses' table unsuccessfully have tried to weaken and split the mass defense which has so far saved the Scottsboro boys from death. These Negro misleaders, Judases to their race, have tried to soft-peddle the mass defense and render the Scottsboro boys defenseless before the "mercy" of the lynch courts. They have attacked the Communist Party's leadership in the case, and tried to behead the defense through their "red scare."

* * *

TODAY, in the midst of its election campaign, the Communist Party emphasizes more strongly than ever, the need for rallying millions throughout the world to SAVE THE SCOTTSBORO BOYS.

The Scottsboro case is a symbol of the oppression by the employing class of the whole Negro people. The capitalist class rules and exploits the workers, and maintains its state by splitting and dividing the workers; the capitalist government marks the Negroes for the most brutal, ruthless suppression, discrimination and exploitation.

The fight for freedom for the Scottsboro boys is the fight for the freedom of the whole Negro race from oppression by the capitalist class and its government. The fight for the Scottsboro boys is a fight against the whole lynch terror against Negro toilers, the fight against Jim-Crow and discrimination, the fight for equal rights for Negroes.

The Communist Party in the present election campaign, as one of the seven major demands of its program, demands freedom for the Scottsboro boys; calls for a fight "AGAINST JIM-CROWISM AND LYNCHING; FOR EQUAL RIGHTS FOR THE NEGROES AND SELF-DETERMINATION FOR THE BLACK BELT; FOR THE NEGRO BILL OF RIGHTS."

The Communist Party's congressional election program is the program for the complete overthrow of the entire rotten capitalist state and system; for the setting up by the workers and farmers of their own government.

The Communist Party knows that, as the congressional election platform states, when the workers have set up their own government, that this revolutionary government "WOULD PROCEED AT ONCE TO THE COMPLETE LIBERATION OF THE NEGRO PEOPLE FROM ALL OPPRESSION, SECURE THE RIGHT OF SELF-DETERMINATION OF THE BLACK BELT, AND WOULD SECURE UNCONDITIONAL ECONOMIC POLITICAL AND SOCIAL EQUALITY."

In the Soviet Union as soon as the workers had carried through their revolution, their own workers' government ended all discrimination against any race.

The same revolutionary path will liberate the Negro people in the United States.

As an important part of its election campaign the Communist Party calls upon all workers and farmers to FIGHT FOR THE FREEDOM OF THE SCOTTSBORO BOYS. FIGHT JIM-CROWISM. FIGHT LYNCHING, BOTH LEGAL AND ILLEGAL. FIGHT FOR EQUAL RIGHTS FOR NEGROES AND FOR SELF-DETERMINATION FOR THE BLACK BELT.

A vote for the Communist Party is a demand for the release of the Scottsboro boys, a vote for freedom and equal rights for the Negroes.

VOTE COMMUNIST.

JOIN THE COMMUNIST PARTY AND STRENGTHEN THE FIGHT FOR NEGRO RIGHTS. BUILD THE COMMUNIST PARTY IN ORDER TO STRENGTHEN THE FIGHT FOR FREEDOM FOR THE SCOTTSBORO BOYS.

OUT OF THE CLOUDS which have enveloped the Scottsboro case for the past fortnight, in the course of which the International Labor Defense and Samuel Leibowitz have been in and out of the case several times, the following facts seem to be emerging. The two defendants, Heywood Patterson and Clarence Norris, at present under sentence of death in Kilby Prison, in Alabama, have declared in writing that they wish their defense to be conducted, as it has been for two and a half years, by the International Labor Defense, and their appeal before the United States Supreme Court to be argued by Osmund Fraenkel and Walter Pollak. At the same time they hope that whatever differences exist between the I. L. D. and Samuel S. Leibowitz, who has defended the case in the lower courts but who never has appeared before the Supreme Court, will be amicably settled, or, in the words of Patterson: "I am with the hopes that Mr. Leibowitz will change his attitude and be of agreeable." These documents, signed by Norris and Patterson, are at present in the office of the International Labor Defense in New York City. One can only hope that not only Mr. Leibowitz but everybody concerned with the case will from now on "be of agreeable," and that the appeal before the Supreme Court will not be further prejudiced by controversies over who will conduct the defense. To an outsider only one thing is plain: the argument before the Supreme Court should be conducted by the best possible counsel. To date no better counsel has been offered than Mr. Pollak, recognized as an able pleader before the highest court in the country, and Mr. Fraenkel. Further defense squabbles cannot, one feels sure, originate with anyone who has the best interests of the two Negro youths at heart.

SCOTTSBORO NEGROES SWITCH ALLEGIANCE

Leibowitz Repudiated In Favor Of Atlanta Lawyer

10-17-34

By United Press.

MONTGOMERY, Oct. 17.—Haywood Patterson and Clarence Norris negro defendants in the Scottsboro case, have once more switched their choice of attorneys to defend them before the United States supreme court.

After retaining Samuel Leibowitz, New York, to handle their appeals from death sentences, and telling others "not to come to see them anymore," yesterday they repudiated Leibowitz and chose Ben Davis, Atlanta negro, to defend them.

Mothers of the negroes accompanied Davis as he pleaded with them to "remain true to the International Labor Defense."

WHEN GENTLEMEN FALL OUT

There is an old saying that "when gentlemen fall out dishonest people profit," or something of the sort.

Mr. Samuel Leibowitz, the New York police court lawyer who has saved many a guilty neck from the hangman's noose, has fallen out with his old pals, the plate-passing, parading members of the International Labor Defense.

10-3-34

Mr. Leibowitz said of the ILD after two men were arrested and charged with trying to bribe one of the victims in the "Scottsboro case": "The ILD has been hampering the case for the Scottsboro boys. I will have nothing to do with the Scottsboro case as long as the ILD has anything to do with it."

Leibowitz went on to say that the ILD had been using the plight of the Negro prisoners as a mere sales talk so that more funds could be collected for the operation of the organization. The lawyer also declared that he did not care to be associated with an organization which is seeking to embarrass President Roosevelt by asking him to intervene in the case.

In fact Mr. Leibowitz became angry. And when he became angry he charged the ILD with doing the things Alabamians had been charging all along.

But there is another side to the case. The ILD also has a side.

Recent propaganda sheets sent out from the ILD office declare that Leibowitz was angered because the organization named another lawyer to take the case to the United States Supreme Court. It seems that the ILD does not consider Leibowitz, the police court lawyer, an authority on the Constitution of the United States. So it asked another lawyer to represent the defendants before the United States court.

Leibowitz says that the ILD is a mercenary organization which cares not a whit whether the "Scottsboro boys" are saved.

The ILD says that Leibowitz places selfish ambition above the necks of the "Scottsboro boys."

Perhaps both are right.

Harlem Throng Greets Herndon as Symbol of Revolutionary Unity of Black and White

Daily Worker, New York, 8-17-34.

Browder Cheered As He Speaks of Breach in Reactionary South

By CYRIL BRIGGS

NEW YORK.—In a magnificent display of fighting solidarity of Negro and white workers, nearly 3,000 persons roared a thunderous welcome to Angelo Herndon, young Negro Communist hero of the Atlanta, Georgia, slave code trial Wednesday night at Rockland Palace, Harlem.

The throng, 70 per cent Negroes, gave a stormy ovation to Herndon, Earl Browder, national secretary of the Communist Party, Joseph Brodsky, Scottsboro defense attorney, and other outstanding leaders of the revolutionary movement. In significant recognition of the Communist Party as the organizer and leader of the fight for Negro liberation, the whole crowd, including many Negroes heretofore unfamiliar with the revolutionary movement, came to its feet singing the Internationale as Browder was introduced.

Mighty Shout Greets Herndon

Another stormy scene ensued as cheers from outside the hall heralded the arrival of Angelo Herndon. As one, and with a mighty shout of welcome, the audience came to its feet cheering and applauding as Herndon was borne up the isle on the shoulders of white and Negro workers. The Internationale again rang out, as the assembly greeted the heroic Negro, temporarily rescued from torture and death on the Georgia chain gang by the protests and dollars and pennies of the working class.

The meeting, from beginning to end, held the character of a spirited demonstration of iron determination to struggle against Negro oppression, against lynching, hunger, fascism and imperialist war, for Negro liberation and the emancipation of the entire working class. Outlines by various speakers of the Communist program on these vital questions were greeted with cheers and applause, as were appeals to further build and cement the unity of Negro and white workers being achieved under the bold, correct leadership of the Communist Party.

Browder Greets Herndon

Comrade Browder greeted Herndon in the name of the Central Committee of the Communist Party and briefly and concisely outlined the issues involved in the Herndon case:

"What is it that made the name of Angelo Herndon travel with such swift wings around the world? It is because Angelo Herndon stands as an outstanding example of those who have begun a revolution in the United States, who have begun to transform the rotten, reactionary solid South of feudal reaction, to organize the forces of revolution in the South, who have started the process of unification of the oppressed black and white in the struggle which is already changing the solid South so that it is no longer so solid.

"The solid South is spoken of as solid because it was the solid basis for reaction in the United States. The blight of this reaction has been not only over the white and Negro toiling masses in the South but over the entire country. Every forward step this country ever made had to be against the solid South because the solid South meant a slave-owning ruling class. Even capitalism could not go forward except to carry out a four years civil war to smash that solid South."

Fires of Revolt Light Up South

Comrade Browder then showed how after capitalism had won its victory with the aid of the Negro masses, it betrayed the Negro people and "re-enslaved the Negroes in a new slavery, if anything more complete and far-reaching than the old chattel slavery."

"Three years ago," he declared, "there seemed not a ray of hope in the South. There was no light anywhere. Everything was black, dark reaction. Today that is no longer true. Throughout the South today the fires that were lighted by Angelo Herndon and his comrades light up every nook and corner of the South.

"Throughout the South today there are sparks of revolt against this slave empire which are being rapidly fanned into flames of mass struggle, and it was because of the deadly fears of the white ruling class, fear of this program, that they seized upon young Angelo Herndon, the fearless bearer of this program and sentenced him to 18 to 20 years on the chain gang, for the crime of holding meetings of black and white workers together."

Herndon told of his work among white and Negro unemployed of Atlanta, Ga., the victory of the unemployed workers in forcing the city authorities to continue relief and Herndon's subsequent arrest and frame-up. He paid a glowing tribute to the powerful protests of white and Negro workers and intellectuals, protests which, he declared, forced the lynch rulers to hold their hands and finally won his temporary freedom on bail pending appeal to the U. S. Supreme Court. He called upon the Negroes present, especially, to take note of the victories won by the united struggles of Negro and white workers, and to repudiate reformist misleaders, like Walter White, William Pickens, George Schuyler, etc., who consistently betray the Negro liberation struggle.

Call For Intensified Fight

Anna Damon, of the national office of the International Labor Defense, Israel Amter, national secretary of the Unemployed Councils, William Fitzgerald, Harlem Section organizer of the I. L. D., Ruby Bates, key witness in the Scottsboro case and others appealed for an intensified campaign for the complete freedom of Herndon, the Scottsboro Boys, and Ernst Thaelmann, courageous leader of the German working class.

Ben Davis, editor of the Negro Liberator and one of Herndon's defense attorneys, told of Herndon's courageous conduct in the Lynch court, of his ringing defiance to the lynch rulers of Georgia and the whole South.

The assembled workers and intellectuals pledged themselves to a relentless fight for the complete freedom of Herndon, and the Scottsboro Boys and Ernst Thaelmann, and emphasized their determination and sincerity with a flood of dollar bills for the Herndon and Scottsboro appeals.

Scottsboro Herndon Defense Fund

Honor Certificate

Nº 2237

Anna Damon

Angelo Herndon

Issued to those who turn their loans to bail fund into outright contributions.

Stachel Asks Action By Union Members For Scottsboro Boys

Daily Worker 11-13-34 New York

By JACK STACHEL

Acting National Secretary, T.U.U.L.

At this crucial moment in the Scottsboro Defense it is imperative that all trade union members realize the immediate need for action—action to halt the execution of Haywood Patterson and Clarence Norris, which still stands for Dec. 7.

This mass action must take several definite forms. First, an unprecedented wave of mass protests from locals, executive boards, shops, to converge upon the justices of the U. S. Supreme Court and to President Roosevelt in Washington. Second, active support and participation in the Scottsboro-Herndon Action Committees locally and nationally. Third, whole-hearted and concrete support to the International Labor Defense which is conducting the daily relentless battle that has saved the lives of the nine innocent Scottsboro boys during the three and a half years since they were framed and sentenced to die in Scottsboro, Alabama.

This support must take the form of aiding in the collection of the $6,000 Scottsboro-Herndon fund needed immediately for printing and filing the briefs and appeals with the U. S. Supreme Court. The Scotsboro case has become a challenge to the entire working class. It is not the responsibility of any one group or any one organization. It is our responsibility, our duty to do all that we can to save the Scottsboro boys. Pass resolutions and protests in your locals and boards, collect funds and rush them by telegraph, special delivery air mail to the National Office of the I.L.D., Room 610, 80 East 11th Street, New York City.

Lynchings-1934

Legal Punishment for Rape.

Alabama.

4686

THREE NABBED AS BRIBE CHARGED IN SCOTTSBORO CASE

Huntsville Prisoner Offered Woman $1,000 To Change Testimony, Claim

10-2-34

VICTORIA PRICE AIDS POLICE IN LAYING TRAP

Birmingham News

Pair Jailed At Nashville Were Bringing Money For Deal, Claim

HUNTSVILLE, Ala.— (AP) —Police disclosed they were holding a man whom they identified as J. W. Pearson, of Birmingham, on a warrant charging attempted bribery of Victoria Price, prosecution witness in the "Scottsboro attack case."

Pearson, police said, was taken into custody on the warrant sworn out by Mrs. Price, just outside of Huntsville Saturday, as the man and the state's principal witness drove out of the city en route to Nashville.

Chief of Police Blakemore said extradition proceedings for a man identified as "Daniel Swift" now held at Nashville would be instituted, but he had no charges against Sol Kone, also held by Tennessee authorities.

Police said Mrs. Price told them last week that Pearson had sought to bribe her, making an offer five weeks ago of $500 to sign affidavits changing her testimony against the nine Negro defendants accused of attacking her and Ruby Bates aboard a Southern Railway freight train in Jackson County, March 25, 1931.

Mrs. Price, according to police, advised them last Thursday that the man was back and had raised the alleged offer of a bribe to $1,000, Mrs. Price accepted, advising police, that she was to go to Nashville Saturday with Pearson "to get the money."

Chief of Police Blakemore had officers stationed on the highway to intercept Mrs. Price and Pearson and arrested the man. A warrant then was sent to Nashville for the arrest of "Daniel Swift," whom police were informed would fly to the Tennessee capital from New York with the money.

The men were arrested Sunday afternoon soon after they had flown to Nashville in a chartered airplane from Cincinnati and registered at a local hotel.

At the jail they were booked as Dan Swift and Sol Kone. The Nashville Tennessean said that "Swift told, under quizzing, that he was a New York lawyer."

Deputy Sheriff Corcoran, one of the officers who made the arrests at Nashville, said a roll of bills, later found to contain $1,500 in $1 bills, was discovered in the back seat of Corcoran's automobile after Swift and Kone got out.

"You're leaving your money in the car, Buddy," Corcoran said he told one of them, and the man replied, "It's not my money." The unclaimed money was at the Nashville jail Monday.

Mrs. Price has had a bodyguard since February, 1933, when Ruby Bates, Mrs. Price's companion on a hobo trip, disappeared from her Huntsville home, a few weeks before a change of venue from Scottsboro, where the Negroes first were tried in April, 1931, was granted in the attack case.

In this trial eight of the Negroes were sentenced to death and in the case of the ninth the jury disagreed on punishment.

The state conducted a widespread search for the Bates girl, but found no trace of her. Just before the conclusion of the trial of Heywood Patterson, one of the nine Negro defendants, at Decatur in April, 1933, the Bates girl made a dramatic appearance.

As a defense witness she repudiated her testimony of being attacked, and swore that none of the Negroes molested her and that she did not see them attack Victoria Price.

Since the trial, the Bates girl has remained in New York and her testimony in new trials at Decatur last Fall was given in interrogatories.

Two of the nine Negroes, Patterson and Clarence Norris were convicted at Decatur last Fall and sentenced to death. Five others are in the Jefferson County Jail awaiting outcome of appeals to the United States Supreme Court in the Norris and Patterson cases, and two others, also held in Birmingham, are in custody of the juvenile courts.

The warrant sent to Nashville for Swift's arrest, police revealed Monday, was sworn out by Pearson, and read indentically as the one sworn to by Mrs. Price for the arrest of Pearson.

The warrant for Swift read: "Daniel Swift did corruptly by means of an offer of money obstruct or impede or inflence the due administration of justice in the courts of this state by offering Victoria Price, a witness in the case of the State of Alabama versus Heywood Patterson, Clarence Norris, Eugene Williams, Roy Wright, Olin Montgomery, Charles Weems, Willie Roberson and Andy Wright money and was taking her from Huntsville, Ala., to Nashville, Tenn., for the purpose of hindering her from giving testimony in said above causes or either of them to induce her to deny, change or alter the testimony she had already given in said cause or causes."

Knight Bringing Alleged Bribers Home For Trial

Advertiser

Wins Extradition Of Kone And Swift At Hands Of Tennessee Governor

10-5-34

Called 'Kidnaping,'

Montgomery, Ala.

Alabama Supreme Court Refuses Rehearing For 2 Scottsboro Defendants

NASHVILLE, TENN., Oct. 4.—(AP)—Rushed away from the Davidson County jail a few minutes after Gov. McAlister had honored requisitions for them, two men charged with, attempting to bribe Victoria Price, a principal witness in the Scottsboro case, tonight were en route to Huntsville, Ala., in custody of officers.

The men—Daniel Swift and S. Kone, both of New York, had applications for writs of habeas corpus pending in criminal court here when they were whisked through a rear corridor of the county jail into a waiting automobile. A hearing on their applications was set for tomorrow morning.

Charles Norman, a brother of an attorney employed by the men, jumped on the running board of the car as it pulled away from the jail. Besides the prisoners, Sheriff Ben F. Giles, of Madison County, Ala., and H. S. Miller, his chief deputy, rode in the automobile.

Norman, who said he was assisting a deputy sheriff to serve notices of the applications for habeas corpus writs on the Alabama officers, told reporters he was carried several blocks on the speeding car and then jumped to the street.

Couldn't Jump Off

"I was with the officer trying to serve the papers," Norman related. "As the car pulled out we both jumped for it and I made it. They were going so darn fast they carried me six blocks before I was able to get off. Of course, there was nothing I could do—I was just trying to get off."

Jack Norman, of counsel for the men, asserted that the hasty departure "was in effect a kidnaping." He said that "we are planning our next move, but of course we can't discuss that now."

In another car, Mrs. Price and other Alabama officers rode ahead of the automobile carrying Swift and Kone who were arrested here Sunday.

Jack Norman said that because the Alabama officers did not wait for the Governor's extradition warrant to be delivered they "legally" kidnaped the two.

Gov. McAlister's decision to extradite the men followed a brief hearing on the application of Gov. Miller, of Alabama, for their removal to Huntsville.

Atty. Gen. Thomas E. Knight, of Alabama, headed counsel seeking the extradition. He was assisted by J. Carlton Loser, Nashville district attorney general, and T. S. Lawson, assistant Alabama attorney general.

Jack Norman and Ewing Baskette, both of Nashville, and Frank Scheiner, of New York, represented Swift and Kone. Scheiner said he was acting as a "friend" of the men.

Technicalities At Issue

At the hearing, several witnesses from Alabama, including Mrs. Price, waited to testify. They were not heard, however, after Loser told the Governor that they were only available to testify as to whether Swift and Kone had ever been in Alabama.

That question was not raised by Norman, who argued for the prisoners. Norman based his plea chiefly on three points—that the requisitions carried affidavits improperly issued by an Alabama circuit clerk,. that the affidavits were "issued on beliefs and not on facts" and that the requisitions did not state the date on which the offenses allegedly were committed.

The Governor, in his oral ruling, said that the "case seems to hinge" on the question of a circuit clerk's authority to issue an affidavit. He expressed the opinion that the question "had been fully answered" by arguments of Knight and by provisions of Alabama statutes.

After the hearing, Knight issued a statement expressing appreciation "of the splendid spirit of cooperation" he said was exhibited by Loser and his assistants.

I. L. D. Thinks Leibowitz Wasn't Really Seeing Red

Advertiser

10-6-34

NEW YORK, Oct. 5.—(AP)—The International Labor Defense in a statement today charged that Samuel Leibowitz, noted trial attorney, had withdrawn from the Scottsboro case in a fit of anger because he had not been chosen to take the appeal to the United States Supreme Court.

Montgomery, Ala.

Leibowitz announced two days ago that he was resigning from the case because "the communists" were hampering his defense.

"Mr. Leibowitz, is out of the vase because he has chosen to put his personal and political ambition above the interests of the Scottsboro boys," said the statement. Walter H. Pollak, constitutional lawyer, has been retained to conduct the appeal, it was said.

MORE CHARGES ARE FACED BY LAWYERS

Post

Scottsboro Case Attorneys In Huntsville Jail

10-5-34

HUNTSVILLE, Oct. 5.—(Special.)—Additional charges against Daniel Swift and S. Kone, New York attorneys extradited here from Nashville on charges of attempting to bribe a state witness in the Scottsboro case, were considered today by Madison county authorities, according to Sheriff Ben F. Giles.

Birmingham, Ala.

Sheriff Giles declined to reveal the nature of the charges considered but said he was "working on evidence" that probably will result in the issuance of new warrants against Swift and Kone later today.

The two were brought here last night after Governor McAlister of Tennessee had signed requisitions for their transfer to Alabama.

The defendants are charged with attempting to bribe Mrs. Victoria Price, principal state witness in the Scottsboro case, to alter her testimony to favor the nine negroes accused of attacking her and a companion, Ruby Bates, in 1931.

At a second trial of one of the negroes in Decatur last year, Miss Bates appeared as a defense witness to retract her testimony given as a state witness at the first trial.

Several witnesses from Alabama including Mrs. Price, were present at the extradition hearing in Nashville yesterday but none were called to testify.

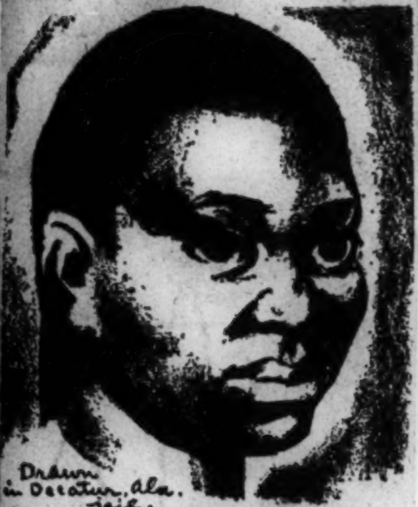
Scottsboro Boys Hail Release of Herndon

Daily Worker
8-7-34

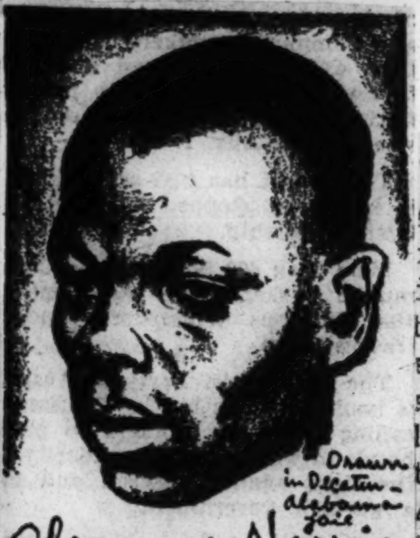
New York N.Y.

NEW YORK.—How the release on bail of Angelo Herndon, young Negro organizer, from the Fulton Tower prison in Atlanta, has raised the spirits of the Scottsboro boys, is shown in two letters received last week from Kilby Prison, Montgomery, Ala.

The letters are written by Haywood Patterson and Clarence Norris, the two boys whose death sentences have been upheld by the Alabama Supreme Court.


Drawn in Decatur. Ala. Jail.

Haywood Patterson.


Drawn in Decatur – Alabama Jail

Clarance Norris.

"I am very happy to hear the good news that the workers have succeeded in gaining Angelo Herndon's liberty on bail, which is great," writes Haywood Patterson, three times sentenced to die by the Alabama courts. "I trust that he will be back on the job before long and will continue his great work in behalf of the organization. It makes me feel happy to hear of the victories that the I. L. D. accomplishes and my only wish is that the workers will lead on to greater accomplishment and have me free from suffering for something I know nothing of and disburden this dreadful situation I am now facing without cause.

"I have the greatest of faith that the workers will bring about my liberty in the near future. So far they have put up a great fight in this mighty struggle for my release. Therefore I have no reason in the world to feel any ways but confident, and keep in good courage and cheerful. All have done their very best to make prison life bearable for me during these trying years, through the power of the organization. I have faith that I will be in the position to do considerable great work in behalf of the organization. I shall always be indebted to the organization and its faithful members."

"If you should see Angelo Herndon give him my warmest regards," writes Clarence Norris. "I was very happy to hear that the workers have succeeded in gaining Angelo Herndon's liberty on bail. I trust that he will be able to go out into the field and continue his great work on behalf of the organization. I have the greatest faith and courage that some day I will be in the position to do great work for the organization and the uplifting of my race and the foreign-born workers.

"I want to inform all comrades and sympathizers that I am always in the very best of spirits and courage and appreciate the grand fight that they are putting up for my freedom."

NEGRO SENTENCED IN ATTACK CASE

News

Penitentiary Term Given To Ice Truck Employe

10-4-34

Birmingham Ala.

Tom Wells, 24, Negro, was found guilty Tuesday by a jury in Judge Heflin's court on a statutory charge in connection with an attempted attack on a 1?-year-old girl at her home in West End last August.

Judge Heflin sentenced the Negro to 19 to 20 years in the penitentiary. The jury was out only 15 minutes.

The Negro was identified by the girl and her sister as the marauder who entered their bedroom at an early morning hour and accosted them while they were asleep. They said they screamed and frightened him away. A street light shining through the window enabled them to see the marauder clearly, they said.

The Negro claimed an alibi, saying he was waiting for an ice truck, on which he worked, when arrested.

ROCKY MOUNT, N. C.
TELEGRAM

OCT 3 1934

The Hardy Perennial

Another annoying feature of the famous Alabama Scottsboro case is that it threatens to last forever. It has been revived at this late date because of alleged bribery offers made to the State's star witness. One of the two women who first claimed she had been ravaged by a half dozen Negroes on board a freight train later repudiated her statement. The other of the women clung to her story. The jury of Alabama residents preferred to believe the latter. Consequently, the group of Negro youths, who have since developed into full manhood in an Alabama jail, was condemned to death. If they do not die in an Alabama electric chair, it is likely that they will die of old age in an Alabama jail and, if one must choose the lesser of two evils, perhaps a speedier ending to their troubles will be less painful.

A great hue and cry has been raised to bring the bribery suspect to Alabama. If he made such an offer, the least offense would be contempt of court. On the other hand this newspaper has witnessed such a conflicting array of stories anent the crime charged against the Negroes that it can have little sympathy with the processes of justice, in as far as Negroes are concerned, in Alabama. The case has hung fire for years and it stands to reason that some speedy disposition should be made of it.

Huntsville, Ala., Times
October 5, 1934

On And On

The Scottsboro cases are like Tennyson's brook—they go on and on.

Just when it seemed that they were slipping into the limbo to which such nauseous cases should be consigned, out popped a new angle, with the alleged attempt of a couple of New Yorkers, apparently agents of the International Labor Defense, to bribe the principal state witness.

The Scottsboro cases have been battered to and fro in the courts for about three and a half years.

Let us hope that before as much more time elapses, they will have been cleaned off the books, so that they can be forgotten.

Impartial

Negroes In Scottsboro Case Take Cash From Leibowitz, I. L. D.

Post

By United Press.

10-13-34

Birmingham Ala.

MONTGOMERY, Oct. 13.—Heywood Patterson and Clarence Norris, negro defendants in the Scottsboro attack case awaiting execution in Kilby prison, are "collecting" from all comers despite the controversy as to which attorney will defend them in the appeal before the United States Supreme court.

The International Labor Defense sends them two dollars weekly for tobacco.

Last week a representative of Samuel Leibowitz, who has broken with I. L. D., persuaded them to name Leibowitz as their official counsel, and promised them tobacco money. He told them to return the I. L. D. contribution when it came.

Warden George Walls said the money came fro mthe attorney—and they accepted it. The money came from the I. L. D.—they grinned and pocketed that too.

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4 Scottsboro Mothers To Speak At Newark For Defense of Boys

Daily Worker

11-13-34

New York

NEWARK, N. J., Nov. 12.—Mrs Ada Wright, Ida Norris, Viola Montgomery, and Josephine Powell mothers of the Scottsboro boys, condemned to die in the electric chair December 7, by the Alabama Supreme Court, will speak in Newark November 14, at 8 p. m.. at Elving's Metropolitan Theatre, Charlton and Montgomery Streets, Newark, N. J.

Benjamin Davis, Jr., who has just returned from a visit to the Scottsboro boys in the death house, will accompany them and will speak on the efforts of Mr. Leibowitz to befog the issue in the Scottsboro case and will relate his conversations with the Scottsboro boys, relative to their desire to have the I. L. D. continue to handle their case. Davis is the chief attorney in the Angelo Herndon case and is at present editor of the "Negro Liberator."

Other speakers will be Angelo Herndon, young Negro worker, who was sentenced to 20 years on the chain gang in Georgia for organizing unemployed, but whose release was secured by the I. L. D. when they raised $15,000 bail. Sam Strong, district organizer of the I. L. D., of New Jersey, will also speak.

Attorneys To Be Given Hearing

Advertiser

Arraignment Of Pair Held For Bribery Is Set For Friday In Madison Court

10-31-34

Montgomery Ala.

HUNTSVILLE, ALA., Oct. 30.—(AP)—A preliminary hearing for two New York attorneys charged with attempting to bribe the State's principal witness in the "Scottsboro case" today was set for Friday in Madison Inferior Court.

The two attorneys, Donald Swift and Sol Kone, who have been held in jail here since Oct. 5, for alleged attempts to bribe Mrs. Victoria Price, complaining witness in the case, will face Judge William H. Blanton.

A third man, J. W. Peerson, of Birmingham, who Mrs. Price told authorities approached her with an offer of $1,000 to repudiate her testimony in seven trials in the "Scottsboro case" thus far has asked for no hearing.

It was the alleged attempt to bribe Mrs. Price that caused a reputure between Samuel S. Leibowitz, New York, chief of defense counsel for nine negro defendants in the case and Joseph R. Brodsky, an attorney of the International Labor Defense.

The nine defendants finally selected Leibowitz to represent them abandoning the International Labor Defense, and at least two of them, Haywood Patterson and Clarence Norris, now under sentence of death, appealed to authorities not to permit "communist lawyers" to interview them.

Swift and Kone were arrested Sept. 30, on complaint of Alabama authorities, at Nashville, Tenn., where they had flown in a chartered airplane.

The complaint was filed after Mrs. Price had told officers Peerson had approached her with an offer of $1,000 to sign an affidavit repudiating her testimony that the negroes attacked her and Ruby Bates aboard a Southern Railway freight train in Jackson County on March 25, 1931.

Peerson was arrested in an automobile with Mrs. Price who had told authorities she was going to start to Nashville with them to obtain the $1,000 and sign the affidavit.

Mrs. Price previously had arranged with officers to intercept the machine.

Swift and Kone were then arrested and after fighting extradition were brought here to await a hearing.

Both men have declined to make public statements since being swiftly removed from Nashville after the requisition had been honored, while an attorney sought to obtain a writ of habeas corpus in their behalf.

In Nashville, authorities still hold $1,500 in currency found in the automobile of a deputy sheriff in which Kone and Swift were transported to jail. Both men denied ownership of the money.

Alabama.

4687

Lynchings—1934
Legal Punishment for Rape.

4 SCOTTSBORO MOTHERS TO SPEAK IN N.Y.

Will Talk at Defense Meeting at Rockland Palace Tonight

11-26-34

Four Scottsboro mothers, who have come all the way from the South to expose the criminal plot, engineered by Samuel S. Leibowitz, New York criminal lawyer, and a group of Harlem Negro misleaders, to disrupt the fight for the lives and freedom of the Scottsboro boys, will speak at the giant city-wide Scottsboro-Herndon defense rally tonight at the Rockland Palace, 155th Street and Eighth Avenue. The mothers are Mrs. Ada Wright and Mrs. Ida Norris, who arrived in New York on Tuesday with Ben J. Davis, Jr., editor of the Negro Liberator, and Mrs. Montgomery and Mrs. Powell, who arrived yesterday from Georgia.

How the attempt by Leibowitz and the Negro misleaders to oust the International Labor Defense from the Scottsboro case has inevitably led them into the camp of the lynch rulers is clearly shown in the affidavit of Mother Ada Wright, published in yesterday's Daily Worker. In that affidavit, Mother Wright indignantly tells of the conferences between Leibowitz's secretary, John Terry, and Alabama Attorney - General Thomas E. Knight, Jr., at which the plot, originated by William H. Davis, publisher of the New York Amsterdam News, and a group of Harlem ministers, to disrupt the defense of the boys was further developed.

Mrs. Wright and the other mothers will give a full report tonight of the treacherous activities of the Negro misleaders and Leibowitz in open collaboration with the Alabama lynch rulers, who framed the boys and sentenced them to burn in the electric chair. They will tell of the lies and deceptions spread by William H. Davis, Rev. Lorenzo H. King, Rev. Richard Bolden, in open alliance with the lynchers.

Ben Davis, Ford, Herndon to Speak

Ben Davis, who has just returned from Alabama, where he talked with the boys in jail, before he was barred by the prison authorities following the effecting of a working agreement between Knight and other lynch officials with Leibowitz and his agents, will supplement his exposure of these maneuvers, as published in Wednesday's Daily Worker, with full details of the trickery, torture and threats used by Alabama officials to force the boys to sign statements for Leibowitz "repudiating" the I. L. D.

James W. Ford, Communist candidate in the 21st Congressional District, and Angelo Herndon, hero of the Atlanta "insurrection" trial, and Herman McKawain of the League of Struggle for Negro Rights, will speak on the world-wide fight for the lives and freedom of the boys, of the newest developments in this fight as indignant workers and intellectuals, Negro and white, are rallying to smash this latest attack on the Scottsboro defense, an attack fraught with the greatest danger to the lives of Haywood Patterson and Clarence Norris, for whom legal lynching has been decreed on Dec. 7 by the Alabama lynch lords.

Open Air Rallies In Harlem Today

The meeting tonight at Rockland Palace is organized by the National Scottsboro Herndon Action Committee, and is the first of a series of protest meetings and demonstrations planned in this city and throughout the whole country in the fight to prevent the legal murder of Norris and Patterson on Dec. 7.

Many open-air meetings will be held throughout the Harlem section today in preparation for tonight's meeting. Meetings are also being held in the Bronx, Brooklyn and other sections of the city.

Conference Saturday

In Crown Heights, Brooklyn, an Emergency Scottsboro-Herndon defense conference has been called for this Saturday at 2 o'clock at the Ralph Avenue Methodist-Episcopal Church, in response to the call of the Emergency Scottsboro-Herndon Defense Conference held in Harlem last Sunday for similar conferences and protest actions throughout the whole country. Other conferences are being arranged in South Brooklyn for Nov. 18, in Queens for Nov. 24. Conferences are also being organized in Birmingham and Atlanta, despite the vicious police terror in those cities, in Chicago, Philadelphia, etc., as the defense movement swings into action throughout the country.

Protest parades have been arranged for this Saturday in Queens and for Oct. 31 in Williamsburg.

The International Labor Defense and the League of Struggle for Negro Rights yesterday joined in the appeal of the National Scottsboro-Herndon Action Committee for the greatest mass outpouring at tonight's meeting at Rockland Palace, 155th Street and Eighth Avenue, in defense of the boys and against the lynchers and their allies, Samuel S. Leibowitz and the Negro misleaders.

* * *

Bronx Meet Tonight

Richard B. Moore, National Field Organizer of the International Labor Defense; Ben Gold, needle trades leader; Tom Truesdale and David Kinkead will speak at a Scottsboro-Herndon defense rally tonight at Ambassador Hall, 3875 Third Avenue. Moore, who has just returned from an extensive tour with Angelo Herndon and Mrs. Norris, will expose the maneuvers of Samuel S. Leibowitz, renegade defense attorney, and a group of Harlem Negro misleaders, to wreck the Scottsboro defense at this critical moment when two of the boys are facing death on Dec. 7.

Nat Bruce, assistant district secretary of the International Labor Defense, will act as chairman.

CARELESSNESS LAID TO I. L. D.

Leibowitz and Chamlee Score Negligence in Patterson Case

10-27-34

New York

In statements issued to the press yesterday, Attorney George W. Chamlee of Chattanooga and Samuel S. Leibowitz of New York renounced all responsibility for the failure of the I. L. D. to properly appeal the case of Haywood Patterson and scored that organization for jeopardizing the life of the Scottsboro youth, who may be denied a hearing before the United States Supreme Court.

General Chamlee, the Patterson family lawyer, who entered the case even before the I. L. D., more than three years ago, told of his repeated warnings to Osmond K. Fraenkel, I. L. D. appeal attorney, to file the papers in both the appeal and the bill of exceptions after that organization had taken the case. His statement issued while here for a conference with Attorney Leibowitz, reads:

"After Patterson and Norris were found guilty before Judge Callahan, the complete charge of the drawing and the filing of the papers necessary to carry the case to the Supreme Court of Alabama was taken over by Joseph R. Brodsky and O. K. Fraenkel, attorneys of the International Labor Defense. Brodsky and Fraenkel got the transcripts of the testimony and all the papers necessary with which to proceed.

"I warned Fraenkel, lawyer for the I. L. D., to be careful to follow the law with reference to the time within which motions for new trials and the filing of bills of exceptions must be made.

"As the decision of the Alabama Supreme Court points out, they neglected to file the papers within the time required by law. The motion for the new trial was not made until after the term of the court had expired. The bill of exceptions was not filed until 94 days from the date of conviction, whereas the statute requires the filing within 90 days. Thus, the Supreme Court of Alabama points out, it was powerless to entertain the appeal on the merits in Patterson's case.

Amsterdam News

"Now, we may be met by argument of the prosecution that the United States Supreme Court will not review this case because the state Supreme Court must first pass upon the questions at issue; that inasmuch as the Alabama Supreme Court refused to pass upon Patterson's case, due to the neglect mentioned, the United States Supreme Court, may not, therefore, interfere.

"Patterson may, consequently, have to go to his doom, due to the failure of the persons in charge to take the ordinary precautions to follow the simple language of the statute and the long line of decisions interpreting the statute in the State of Alabama.

New York

"This statement is made so that the public may know that both Mr. Leibowitz and I are not responsible for what may happen to Patterson, should the Supreme Court of the United States refuse to entertain Patterson's appeal, and, so that the responsibility may be laid at the door where it properly belongs—with the I. L. D. and those that have been managing this matter.

Scores Propaganda.

"The I. L. D. has been more concerned about spreading Communist propaganda, about drives to collect huge sums of money, about barnstorming the witnesses and the mothers of the boys, and about addressing insulting letters and telegrams to the officials. If but a little attention had been given to the legal requirements in the case by the I. L. D. lawyers, Patterson would not now be facing such an obstacle to his freedom.

"This is one of the many reasons why Mr. Leibowitz and I have determined to divorce the Communists and their lawyers from the Scottsboro case—so that these unfortunate, innocent boys would not be further exploited and their future legal interests carefully and properly looked after."

Attorney Leibowitz's statement read:

"Neither General Chamlee nor I will accept any responsibility for the neglect of the I. L. D. in filing the appeal papers in the Alabama State Supreme Court, which prompted that court to refuse to consider Patterson's case on the merits. Any consequences for such neglect must be borne by the I. L. D."

Mother Scores Brodsky, Fraenkel.

A letter addressed to Brodsky and Fraenkel by Mrs. Janie Patterson, mother of Haywood, was also made public. It stated:

"Dear Sir:

"I understand that the Supreme Court of the State of Alabama has ruled that you have failed to file my boy's papers in time, and, therefore, the Supreme Court refused to consider Haywood's appeal. I also understand that, because of this neglect on your part, my boy's chances of getting a hearing before the United States Supreme Court are seriously endangered.

"If my boy has to die because of this carelessness, ought I not then hold you responsible? No words can express the sorrow of a mother's heart produced under such circumstances."

Chamlee Hits Brodsky.

In answer to a telegram from Brodsky requesting a conference Tuesday, Attorney Chamlee wired:

"Telegram received. I see no need to confer with you or I. L. D. Mr. Leibowitz and I now represent the Scottsboro boys. I never approved of your tactics and I feel that the boys are now free from the Communist and that their chances of getting a fair trial have been greaty improved. The world should now of your neglect in failing to dle Patterson's appeal papers in time, thereby prejudicing his legal right and placing him in the terrible predicament in which we now find him. I will not assume any responsibility and neither will I permit anyone to place any part of the blame for this neglect on my shoulders."

Scottsboro Mother Here to Aid Defense

Amsterdam News 10-27-34 New York N.Y.

MRS. JANIE PATTERSON, mother of Haywood Patterson, is shown above as she arrived here at the Pennsylvania station from Chattanooga Sunday to appeal for support of Attorneys Samuel S. Leibowitz and George W. Chamlee as sole defense counsel of the Scottsboro boys. (Shown in the picture (left to right) are Attorney Leibowitz, Dr. George E. Haynes, temporary chairman of the American Scottsboro Committee; Mrs. Patterson; Bill "Bojangles" Robinson, who is planning a monster Scottsboro benefit which may be held at Madison Square Garden; John Terry, secretary to Mr. Leibowitz; Attorney Raymond J. Riley, an associate in the case, and General George W. Chamlee of Chattanooga.

SPARTANBURG, S. C.
JOURNAL

OCT 4 1934

Scottsboro Case

This Scottsboro (Ala.) criminal case has been running along for about three years, due largely to agitation and interference from outside the state of Alabama. It is high time it was ended. Several negro men were tried, convicted and sentenced to death for assault on two white girls who were bumming their way across the country, riding freight trains.

When the darkies were convicted several northern agencies and organizations opened up an aggressive campaign against the sentences of the court. The case was reopened and revamped and legal, technical steps followed each other in rapid sequence. But nothing was accomplished to relieve the condemned men of sentence. These outside activities have had the effect of holding up the courts of Alabama to scorn and censure.

The latest espisode is that one of the two girls on whose testimony the darkies was convicted has been approached and tempted with a bride to change her testimony. If the facts can be established those guilty of the attempt should be severely dealt with. Meanwhile there should be an end to this case sometime. It is one for Alabama through its courts and officers to settle, and outside interference should not swerve the constituted authority from doing whatever its duty may be in the premises.

FAMOUS CASE HEARD ON AIR

Amsterdam News

General Chamlee and Mrs. Patterson Are Speakers on WHN

New York

A scathing attack on the actions of the International Labor Defense and the Communists in the Scottsboro case was delivered over Station WHN Thursday evening by General George W. Chamlee, Chattanooga attorney who is associated with Attorney Samuel S. Leibowitz in the new defense of the condemned youths.

Following the Chattanooga lawyer's radio address, Mrs. Janie Patterson, mother of Haywood Patterson, one of the doomed boys, made a short but fervent appeal to the mothers of America to rally to the new defense of the boys and help in the fight to save them from death in the electric chair.

General Chamlee, who was retained by the parents of Haywood even before the I. L. D. entered the case and who has continued in the defense of the boys for almost four years, told the radio audience how the Communists had prejudiced not only the Southern jurors, but higher officials by sending insulting telegrams and wires to the courts while the cases and appeals were being heard.

The lawyer revealed that insulting wires were sent to all leading officials and to Judge James E. Horton, even after the jurist had granted Patterson a new trial in Decatur last year. General Chamlee expressed the opinion that the boys would receive a fair trial now that the Communists and the I. L. D., which he described as a Communist organization, had been ousted from the case.

JONES BACKS I.L.D. IN FIGHT FOR NINE BOYS

Daily Worker

Says Only Mass Defense Tactics Have Saved Lives Till Now

10-29-34

NEGRO RIGHTS ISSUE

New York N.Y.

Calls Disruption Effort 'Tragedy" to Cause of Boys and Race

The attempt to oust the International Labor Defense from the Scottsboro case is a tragic blow against the fight for the lives and freedom of the Scottsboro boys and the mass struggles, organized around the case, for the rights of the oppressed Negro people, William N. Jones declares in his column in the Baltimore Afro-American, issue of Oct. 27.

Speaking with the knowledge of one who has closely followed the case and actively participated in defense activities for the boys, Mr. Jones states:

"No one who has followed the Scottsboro case carefully during the past three years could help looking with apprehension at the recent effort of a group of New York men to help Samuel Leibowitz oust the International Labor Defense at this crucial stage in their fight to save the lives of the nine boys and through them the rights of 14,000,000 citizens in this country.

"No one should accuse me of holding any wholesale brief for the Communists, but I feel that it would be a tragedy at this time to disrupt the tremendous influence this organization has built up in its long and effective fight in the Scottsboro case."

He declares that the very tactics (of mass pressure on the courts and militant legal defense, boldly challenging the exclusion of Negroes from juries, etc.,) which Leibowitz and his Negro lieutenants now criticise are "the only things which have saved the Scottsboro boys so far." He warns that the case "is no gloved hands, pink tea and caviar affair," and pointedly asks where were these new found "champions" (Rev. Lorenzo King, William H. Davis, publisher of the Amsterdam News, Rev. Richard Bolden, Rev. Dr. Edward E. Haynes) of the boys during the past three and a half long years of dogged, uncompromising struggle for the lives and freedom of the boys.

"Not since John Brown made his famous raid at Harpers Ferry," Mr. Jones declares, "have men and women been called upon to take such chances as those taken by members of the I. L. D. in this case. The Scottsboro boys themselves have not been in much more jeopardy at times than the men and women who have gone to their defense under the banners of this organization."

He points out that on the other hand, "the men who have recently fallen in behind Samuel Leibowitz have done nothing in the past that would justify a belief that they are willing to make the sacrifices and follow through with the dogged militancy needed in this case.

"If they are in earnest," he continues, "there is no reason why Dr. Edward E. Haynes, William H. Davis and their associates might not exert their full influence in this case without trying to oust the I. L. D., which literally snatched these boys from the electric chair when they were doomed to legal lynching by an Alabama court."

Lynchings-1934

Legal Punishment for Rape.

Alabama.

4688

4688

Daily Worker

10-23-34

New York

UNITED FRONT FOR 9 BOYS IS MAPPED

Haywood Tells of Plans To Rouse Struggle Against Executions

By Harry Haywood

(National Secretary of the League of Struggle for Negro Rights)

It was a united front of Negro and white workers, many of them adherents of parties other than the Communist Party, which came together Sunday at the Finnish Workers Hall, 15 West 126th Street, and pledged themselves to help with all their energy, with all the forces of the organizations they represented, to mobilize the broadest masses for the struggle to prevent the legal murder of the Scottsboro boys on December 7.

This struggle for the Scottsboro boys is a very difficult one. Why? Because the Southern lynch rulers, who have increased their terror against both the Negro and white workers in recent months, are determined to show that they are the masters. They say, in effect, "Yes, we suppress the Negro people and will continue to suppress them." It is a difficult struggle because the Roosevelt Government—the Democratic Party, whose strength lies mainly in the South—stands behind the suppression of the Negroes. It will not lift a finger against the brutal policy of the Southern democrats unless forced to do so by mass pressure.

Trickery of Reformists

Further difficulties in this struggle flow from the fact that the reactionary forces, yes, even the lynchers, can always find willing tools in people like Samuel S. Leibowitz and his Negro lieutenants, Davis of the Amsterdam News, Rev. Lorenzo King, etc., in order to hamper the fight for the freedom of the Scottsboro boys, which is not only the question of the life or death of these nine innocent boys, but is at the same time the question of the liberation of the Negro people. This the Conference fully understood. It understood very well the tricks of Leibowitz and the Negro reformist leaders around him. It understood that people like Leibowitz and his cronies do not give a damn whether the Scottsboro boys are legally murdered or not. Their concern is to make capital out of the case for the capitalist parties, and especially for the Democratic Party—the party of the lynchers. Leibowitz last year attempted to exploit his connection with the case in the interests of the candidacy of Joseph McKee for Mayor of New York City.

What to such people is the question of the oppression of the Negro people, of the lives of nine innocent Negro boys? For them the case merely offers an opportunity to try to cover the infamous anti-Negro policy of the Democratic and Republican parties.

Boys Back I. L. D.

We do not know whether the boys have signed new affidavits retaining Leibowitz, as reported in the capitalist press. We do not know whether Leibowitz and his bodyguard, Terry, backed by the prison wardens and the whole power of the capitalist state, have succeeded in coercing and tricking the boys into repudiating the I. L. D. We do know that Leibowitz's bodyguard attempted to incite the lynching of Ben J. Davis, Jr., and threatened to run Comrade Davis out of Montgomery, Ala. People who will descend to the tactics of the lynchers will not hesitate at anything. It is not impossible that these boys—two confined in the death cells in Kilby Prison, the other seven held for months in solitary confinement in Jefferson County Jail, Birmingham, Ala., have in desperation signed the statements demanded by Leibowitz, with the help of the warden and all other means of terrorizing. It is of the greatest significance that the jailers of the boys have within the last few days barred representatives of the I. L. D. from seeing the boys, under the pretext that the boys have requested Governor B. M. Miller of Alabama to "protect" them from the organization of which they have time and again declared that "had it not been for the I. L. D., we would have been dead long ago."

But the Conference and every sincere friend of the Scottsboro boys will see one question clearly today, will realize that, apart from the legal defense, the main question is to arouse new millions of workers and intellectuals, white and Negro, to build such a united front mass defense movement in this country that will at the last moment stay the bloody hands of the lynch rulers.

This is what the Conference set as its practical task: the mobilization of new millions in the fight to save the boys, the holding of meetings, demonstrations, the enlisting of every honest person in the broadest United Front movement to raise this mass cry: THE SCOTTSBORO BOYS MUST BE SAVED! THE BASIC RIGHTS OF THE NEGRO PEOPLE MUST BE SECURED AND AN INTOLERABLE SITUATION ENDED UNDER WHICH NEGROES ARE HUNTED, TERRORIZED AND MADE THE PREY OF EVERY LYNCH GANG AND DEMAGOG, AS THE HISTORY OF THE SCOTTSBORO CASE SO DRAMATICALLY DISCLOSES.

Let any sincere friend of the Scottsboro boys imagine what would have happened if the Communist Party and the International Labor Defense had not entered the Scottsboro Case three and a half years ago. The boys would have been dead long before this, and Mr. Leibowitz would not have been able to boast upon his return from the Decatur trial that he was now "a made man."

It is the two-fisted policy of the I. L. D. of mass pressure on the lynch courts, supplemented by the best legal defense in the lynch courts, that has saved the boys so far. This is generally recognized. It was recognized by Sunday's conference, which endorsed the I. L. D. policy and called for the most intensified mass protests in the fight to save the boys.

WASHINGTON, D. C.
NEWS
OCT 12 1934

Thinks Scottsboro Is Shame of Nation Which Tolerated It

Editor, The News:

THE EDITORIAL, "Scottsboro Again," should be complimented by all good thinking Americans.

It is a mystery, indeed, how the American people, in whose Constitution there are amendments insuring justice and fair trial to American citizens, can stand by and see such injustice without interfering.

If those boys are killed the United States shall be looked upon as the lowest nation in the world, morally

J. M. HYMAN.

WASHINGTON, D. C.
NEWS
OCT 15 1934

Considers Ruby Bates More Reliable Witness Than Victoria Price

Editor, The News:

I CONSIDER your editorial on "Scottsboro Again," as a noble departure in American journalism.

It shows that, at least, one editor is fair and courageous and recognizes that our nation, if it is to endure, must be founded upon "immutable principles."

Every decent, intelligent Negro insists that the Scottsboro boys be acquitted and released; not because they are Negroes, but because they are innocent.

Were there any worth-while evidence to prove their guilt, not a single note of protest would be heard anywhere.

Here is an attempt to set a precedent by legalizing the premeditated, cold-blooded murder of nine, innocent, Negro lads.

Such a procedure makes a mockery of justice and is a disgrace, not only to Alabama, but to all civilization.

One recent writer in your columns evidently thinks that Ruby Bates was bribed to "retract her charges," because she now has "a tidy little sum in her pockets and dressed in rather expensive clothes." This is quite a stretch of the imagination, but it proves nothing. Wonder if there is any bribery or coercion behind the testimony of Victoria Price?

One of the women is lying, to be sure; but could it not be Victoria Price? She has experienced more years of sin and debauchery and has a criminal record besides. Any fair-minded juror would prefer the Bates girl as a reliable witness.

Ruby Bates deserves great credit for her heroic confession. She has endeared herself to lovers of truth and justice everywhere.

The so-called Tennessee bribery charges seem to be just another frame-up and a bid for public sympathy.

L. C. FARRAR.
Sec'y. Natl. Forum Assn.

WILLIAMSPORT, PA.
SUN
OCT 11 1934

A LESSON LEARNED

The defense of the Negro boys involved in the famous Scottsboro case has learned a lesson, which it reveals in its move to bar the Communist party from further participation in the case. It is convinced that the services of the Communist party are more of a hindrance than a help in its effort to obtain justice for the accused boys, and announces that the defense will be backed hereafter by the Negro churches of America.

The Communist participation in the case has been such as to warrant the belief that the purpose back of it was to take advantage of an opportunity to obtain propaganda. The exploitation of the mother of one of the defendants, who was taken on a tour of foreign lands, for instance, is typical of the course radical agitators have pursued whenever a chance has offered itself.

The strategists of the Communist party have been alert to attach themselves to every incident which might be calculated to give them some advantage—strikes, demonstrations, celebrated trials and so forth. The result, in frequent instances, has been to discredit the cause which they have represented themselves as trying to aid. It has been so in the Scottsboro case.

The South is alarmed at evidences of efforts by radical groups to win recruits among the Negroes. It is not to be wondered at that the relation of the Communists to the Scottsboro case and the tactics which they have used to make capital of it should have the effect of increasing prejudice. It is to be seen whether the defense request that the Communists keep out of the case from now on will be heeded. They are quite likely to place their own advantage above that of the defendants.

TROY, N. Y.
MORNING RECORD
OCT 12 1934

THE SCOTTSBORO RACKET.

Communists have been shouting in and out of court that the Negro boys in the celebrated Scottsboro case have not been fairly tried. The radical leaders have done their utmost to make capital out of it for "the cause." For to all appearances they have been more concerned over the promotion of their own cause than over the cause of the colored defendants. If the previous trials have not been marked by an atmosphere of absolute calm and utter judicial fairness, the strong probability is that the communist lawyers and the ballyhooing groups behind them are largely to blame. If racial prejudice has been stirred up in the courtroom and in the South over this affair, the communist agitators have certainly done their share of the stirring. They have been making a racket of the Scottsboro case.

Samuel Leibowitz, counsel for the Negroe in their last two trials, has announced tha hereafter he will be in complete charge of th defense. He has notified the International Labor Defense and the Communist Party to kee their hands off. This step has been taken he says, in the interest and at the request o the defendants themselves, and he is backe by a group of clergymen holding pulpits i more than twenty of the most influentia Negro churches in New York City. Thes ministers passed a resolution denouncing thos who have been responsible for "using illega means" and "propagandizing" at the expens of the nine Negro boys in trouble. It is understood that the radical organizations will figh back. The case is too valuable for them to lose—that is, to lose as a means of radical fund-raising and propaganda.

"From the beginning," declares Mr. Leibowitz, "the case was used by the Communist Party and its affiliate, the I. L. D., as a focal point of propaganda, agitation and campaign for funds. It was used to stir up trouble between black and white in the South. The parents of the defendants and witnesses in the case were sent barnstorming around the country, and the lives of the defendants were jeopardized for political purposes. Officials of Alabama were bombarded with insulting telegrams, and even the Supreme Court of the United States was not immune from the communists' attempt to exert on it what they are pleased to call 'mass pressure'." These are strong words, but they accord with the general impression already existing in the public mind.

The plain truth is that the radical groups that have taken up a long series of cases like the Sacco-Vanzetti case, the Mooney case and the Scottsboro case have undoubtedly tended to be more harmful than helpful to the supposed beneficiaries of their activity. Regardless of the guilt or innocence of the individuals on trial, in spite of the general desire of judges and juries in our American courts to see that justice is done, these groups have made it as difficult as they possibly could for judges and juries to act with proper judicial calm. The same tactics have been employed in seeking to influence and coerce governors to grant pardon appeals. There is certainly little evidence of a calm, judicial attitude on the part of these propangandists. They possess the very qualities of emotional bias which they condemn.

Commercial Dispatch
COLUMBUS, MISS.
OCT 15 1934

THE SCOTTSBORO CASE

IF EVER the wheels of justice were "monkey-wrenched" and gummed up, they have been in the Scottsboro case.

Delays have followed delays.

The seven negro defendants were entitled to a fair trial.

But beyond that they have no rights.

The delays have been brought about by designing, fee-grabbing lawyers who have exploited the negroes of the North and some in the South by raising funds to "fight" the Scottsboro case.

These lawyers are now in a squabble as to who is to continue to represent the negroes.

They are squabbling over fees—and that's what they are mainly interested in—fat fees.

It develops that two of the lawyers, who have been chiseling in on the case, came down to Huntsville and under assumed names attempted to bribe Victoria Price, one of the girls the negroes attacked and the State's star witness.

They sought to pay her to repudiate her story, just as Ruby Bates, the other woman in the case, did.

They are in jail and should be made to pay the full penalty for their attempts to interfere with justice.

The people of Alabama and the South are tired of the Scottsboro case and the delays that have surrounded it.

It should be brought to a speedy conclusion and the negroes should without further delay be made to pay what just penalty is meted out to them by the courts of Alabama.

Daily Worker
10-23-34 [illegible]

WILL EXPOSE ATTACKS OF LEIBOWITZ AGAINST THEIR BOYS' DEFENSE

Ben Davis Also Returns—He and the Mothers to Tell Full Story of Leibowitz's Maneuvers in 'Daily'—Conference Maps Action

Ben J. Davis, Jr., arrived in New York yesterday afternoon from Alabama with two of the Scottsboro mothers, Mrs. Ada Wright and Mrs. Ida Norris. Two other mothers are on their way and will arrive within a day or two.

Beginning tomorrow, the Daily Worker will carry a series of articles and statements by Davis and the Scottsboro mothers, exposing the trickery and coercion of the Scottsboro boys by Samuel Leibowitz, renegade defense attorney and his Negro lieutenants, aided and abetted by the Alabama lynch rulers, in the campaign to drive a wedge between the boys and the International Labor Defense, the organization which has saved their lives during the past three and a half years.

The Scottsboro mothers and Davis will also give a detailed exposure of this campaign at the Scottsboro-Herndon mass defense rally called for Friday evening at Rockland Palace, 155th Street and Eighth Avenue.

Plans for a giant Scottsboro-Herndon protest rally and mass welcome to five of the Scottsboro mothers were enthusiastically adop ed Sunday afternoon at the Eme gency Scottsboro Defense Confe ence, attended by 269 official dele gates from various mass organiz tions, unions, churches, lodges, et and by more than seventy visitor

The conference, opened by Wi liam N. Jones of the staff of th Afro-American, and chairman the newly organized provision Emergency Scottsboro Defense Com mittee repudiated the disrupti activities of Samuel S. Leibowit who withdrew from the defense an later announced that he had secure retainers from the boys authorizin him as sole defense attorney, and the Negro misleaders supporting Leibowitz.

The Conference endorsed the two-fisted defense policy of the International Labor Defense, of securing the attorney best fitted for each phase of the defense fight, plus mass pressure on the lynch courts.

It set up a National Scottsboro-Herndon Action Committee, and called on all friends of the boys to join in setting up local action committees throughout the country. It issued a call for the holding of protest demonstrations to prevent the legal murder of the boys on December 7, the flooding of President Roosevelt and Governor B. M. Miller of Alabama with protests, and the organization of a nation-wide delegation to Washington to place demands on President Roosevelt and the U. S. Congress for the freedom of the Scottsboro boys and Angelo Herndon, and for the enforcement of the constitutional rights of the Negro people. It called for the collection of a million signatures to back up these demands.

NEW YORK JOURNAL
OCT 16 1934

No Communists Wanted

In American Disputes.

The Communists have been ejected from the case of the Scottsboro Negroes, waiting action on their appeal from their second conviction.

It's an excellent precedent in such cases. Making political capital of such legal matters as the Sacco-Vanzetti and Scottsboro cases has served neither the ends of justice nor humanity.

Behind their apparent desire to save the "victims" of Capitalism, the Communists have tried all along to make "martyrs" for themselves.

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Lynchings - 1934
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Legal Punishment for Rape.
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Alabama

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KKK Tactics

THE threat which Leibowitz's private secretary and bodyguard, John Terry, made against the Negro attorney and editor, Benjamin T. Davis, to "run him out of Montgomery, Alabama," cannot be viewed as something aside from the determined mass struggle to save the lives of the nine Scottsboro boys.

Daily Worker

Consider the scene. Davis has lived his whole life in the South. Fearless in his fight against Negro oppression, he champions the cause of Angelo Herndon, whom the Southern lynchers hate not only as a militant Negro but as a Communist. And in the face of the most bitter opposition and danger, Benjamin Davis wins the temporary release of Herndon from the horrors of the chain gang, one of the greatest victories in the recent struggle for Negro rights.

10-20-34

More than that, Davis flings himself into the I. L. D. struggle to liberate the Scottsboro boys, and assumes a leading position in the fight, through becoming a leader in the League of Struggle for Negro Rights.

New York, N.Y.

In every way, Davis represents everything that is best and most heroic in the fight for the freedom of the Scottsboro boys and for Negro rights.

And it is this fearless Negro fighter that Terry, Leibowitz's hired bodyguard, acting as Leibowitz's agent in the South, dares to speak in the tone of the K. K. K. mob leader! It is this way that the Leibowitz "friends" of the Scottsboro boys act toward a leading fighter for the liberation of the boys. And it is due only to the timely intervention of an I. L. D. attorney that Davis is saved personal assault by Leibowitz's aide.

To any honest person really interested, not in personal advancement, but in getting the Scottsboro boys out of jail, there can be no doubt as to where the true interests of the boys lie. Certainly, in the violent threats of a Terry to a Benjamin Davis we have the real situation that shows the difference between the Leibowitz tactics and the I. L. D. fight against the Scottsboro frame-up and the whole lynch system.

• • •

THE threats of Terry against Davis are only the final and logical result of the whole policy of those who have placed themselves around Leibowitz in the effort to crush the mass fight of the I. L. D. Only those who hate and fear the mass fight for Negro rights can stoop to the kind of K. K. K. threat which Leibowitz's aide hurled at Benjamin Davis in Montgomery.

The elements around Leibowitz, including the unscrupulous owner of the Harlem Amsterdam News, "Kid" Davis, stand exposed as enemies of the Scottsboro boys who will not hesitate to gamble with the lives of the Scottsboro boys at the most crucial moments of danger.

Certainly no friend of the Scottsboro boys can have anything further to do with these elements who have bared themselves as unscrupulous adventurers playing with the lives of innocent Negro youths in the hands of the Southern lynchers.

Now all true and honest friends of the Scottsboro boys must heed the personal appeal of the boys sent from Kilby Prison to get behind the tremendous fight which the I. L. D. is waging and will continue to wage against the lynch frame up of the Southern ruling class.

New York Times

OCT 12 1934

TURNS OVER RECORDS IN SCOTTSBORO CASES

Labor Defense Sends Data to Leibowitz, but Will Not Stop Fight for Condemned Men.

The records and papers in the Scottsboro cases in the possession of the International Labor Defense will be turned over today to Samuel S. Leibowitz, chief counsel of the accused Negroes, it was announced yesterday.

The announcement was made by Joseph R. Brodsky, attorney for the International Labor Defense. He acknowledged that he had received from Mr. Leibowitz a demand for the documents. Mr. Leibowitz wrote Mr. Brodsky that Clarence Norris and Haywood Patterson, two of the Scottsboro defendants under sentence of death, had asked that the International Labor Defense cease its activities in connection with their defense.

"We will not do anything to jeopardize the defense and so long as Mr. Leibowitz says he has been retained by Norris and Patterson to carry their appeals to the higher courts, we will of course turn over the papers in the case to him," Mr. Brodsky said. He added, however, that the organization would not stop "the fight that is being made all over the world for the release of the Scottsboro defendants." He said he hoped that Mr. Leibowitz would retain as associate counsel Walter W. Pollock and Osmond K. Frankel who, at previous trials of the Negroes, were active in their defense. He said the experience of both men in the Scottsboro cases would make their aid invaluable if the appeals were to be carried out successfully.

Special to THE NEW YORK TIMES.

MONTGOMERY, Ala., Oct. 11.—Haywood Patterson and Clarence Norris, the two Negroes under sentence of death in the Scottsboro case, are getting $4 a week now for tobacco money. For some time, according to Warden George P. Walls of Kilby prison, the International Labor Defence League has been sending $2 each week.

Recently, the warden said, two lawyers visited the Negroes, and obtained their ~~signature~~ to an agreement to name Samuel S. Leibowitz of New York as their counsel. The Negroes asked what would happen to the $2 a week they had been getting and the attorneys told them, according to Warden Walls, to return the $2 to the International Labor Defense and the lawyers would supply the $2.

"But when the $2 from the International Labor Defense arrived," Warden Walls said, "they kept it, and the other $2, too."

SCOTTSBORO CASE HAS NEW TANGLE

Telegraph

Defendants Are Divided as to Whom They Desire to Represent Them in Trial

10-17-34

MONTGOMERY, Ala., Oct. 16 (AP)—Disagreement between attorneys today spread to defendants in the "Scottsboro case" over who would represent them, with two re-signing with the International Labor Defense and the other seven reiterating their preference for Samuel S. Leibowitz, of New York.

Haywood Patterson, thrice sentenced to death, and Clarence Norris, under his second death sentence, today reversed their decision of last Thursday, signing a release for Leibowitz to represent them, and naming the I. L. D.

In Birmingham, where seven other defendants are confined awaiting trial on charges of attacking Mrs. Victoria Price aboard a Southern railway freight train nearly four years ago, Leibowitz was preferred.

The "rukus" as the defendants themselves termed it, recalled the previous disagreement over attorneys when the Negroes, then in Kilby prison awaiting action on an appeal to the Alabama Supreme court, refused the services of Clarence Darrow and Arthur Garfield Hays in deference to the I. L. D.

Macon Ga.

The action of Patterson and Norris today in revoking their decision of last week to place their defense in the hands of Leibowitz came unexpectedly after Ben Davis, Negro attorney from Atlanta, had conferred with them.

The disagreement as to attorneys also extended to the parents of Patterson, whose mother urged him to place his fate in the hands of the I. L. D., while the father urged that he stand by his first decision in favor of Leibowitz.

The seven defendants in the jail at Birmingham asked a newsman if the "rukus between Mr. Leibowitz and Mr. Brodsky" still was "going on," and reiterated their desire to have Leibowitz represent them.

George W. Chamlee, of Chattanooga, retained by the I. L. D. in the case shortly after the first convictions at Scottsboro in April 1931, also visited Patterson and Norris in "death row" at Kilby today. Warden George P. Walls said Chamlee to again name Leibowitz as their chief of counsel.

LEADERS BACK CONFERENCE FOR SUNDAY

Daily Worker

Two Parades in Harlem To Be Addressed by Red Candidates

10-17-34

MARCHES PLANNED

New York, N.Y.

Lawyer's Agents Try To Prevent Mass Defense Rally

The call of the International Labor Defense and the League of Struggle for Negro Rights to save the Scottsboro boys from legal murder Dec. 7 has been answered by the Negro people and white workers of New York with plans for an Emergency Scottsboro Conference, Sunday, Oct. 21. The conference, endorsed by many prominent persons, Negro and white, will take place in St. Luke's Hall, 127 West 130th St. in Harlem and will open at 2 o'clock.

Other actions in the fight for the lives and freedom of the boys include a Scottsboro parade and demonstration in Harlem this afternoon, with starting points at 27 West 115th St., and 131st St. and Lenox Ave. The two parades will converge at 110th St., where the workers will be addressed by I.

Amter, Communist candidate for governor of New York and James W. Ford, Communist candidate for Congress in the 21st District, leaders in the fight for the Scottsboro boys.

Another mass march through the streets of Harlem will be held Saturday afternoon, with a demonstration at 126th St. and Lenox Ave. and a torchlight parade in the evening. Speakers at the demonstration will include Merle Work, Business Manager of the Negro Liberator and Communist candidate for Assemblyman in the 21st Assembly District, and Harry Haywood, Communist candidate in the 19th Assembly District, and National Secretary of the League of Struggle for Negro Rights.

Plot To Be Exposed

Sunday's conference will set the pace for others throughout the United States.

The sensational story of the trickery and underhanded methods employed by Samuel S. Leibowitz, former Scottsboro attorney, but now a traitor to the Scottsboro boys, to knife the defense in the back, will be told in detail by Ben J. Davis, Jr., editor of the Negro Liberator.

The slimy methods employed by Leibowitz took a new form this week, when his agents in Harlem tried to throw difficulties in the way of the conference by instructing hall owners not to rent halls to the authorized Scottsboro defense. The Harlem Young Women's Christian Association refused a hall for the conference on the ground that "there is another group in this Scottsboro case." The Harlem Young Men's Christian Association also refused their hall on the ground that among their directors are the Rev. Bolden, and the Rev. King—both of them members of the Leibowitz group — and they wouldn't like it." The Urban League likewise refused to let the conference meet in its quarters.

Many Leaders Supporting Conference

Backing the Emergency Conference are a large number of prominent white and Negro leaders. William N. Jones, two years ago chairman of the Ford-Foster election committee and a member of the staff of the Baltimore Afro-American, will arrive from Philadelphia to take part in the conference. Angelo Herndon, recently released on bail from Fulton Tower Prison, Atlanta, Ga., is taking an active part in the preparation of the conference.

Among the many others backing the conference are Joseph Brodsky, on the legal staff of the Scottsboro defense from the first day that the I. L. D. entered the case; Eugene Gordon, well-known writer; A. Gilbert, attorney; Dr. [illegible] Du Bois; Elizabeth Scott, Dr. Ferdinand Forbes, Alexander N. Barrow, District Grand Master of the United Order of Odd Fellows; Dr. H. Washington, Herman Osborne, Dr. James J. Jones, Winifred Chappell of the Methodist Church Federation for Social Service; Kyle Creighton, Editorial Board of Colliers Magazine; Hilda McKinney, Theodore Smith, John Newton Griggs, attorney; Dr. Theodore Donolson, Turner W. Parker, Dr. Ferdinand Reed, Theodore Smith, Aaron Douglas, well-known artist; Dr. Reuben S. Young, Horace Gregory, writer; Oakley Johnson and Joseph Kovin, editors of the Monthly Review; Jack Stachel, Acting Secretary of the Trade Union Unity League; Milton Herndon, brother of Angelo Herndon; Dr. Robert Armstrong, Dr. Arnold Donowa; James W. Ford, Communist leader; Theodore Smith, Ben Gold, well-known leader of the needle trades workers; Steve Kingston, Communist leader; Henry Fillmore Cabot, Roy Hudson, leader of the marine workers; T. Holmes, leader in the needle trades; Peter Uffrie, leader of the tobacco workers; Harry Haywood, General Secretary of the League of Struggle for Negro Rights; Ben J. Davis, editor of the Negro Liberator; Anna Damon, acting National Secretary of the I. L. D.; William Fitzgerald, for the Harlem I. L. D.; Bonita Williams, of the Greater New York Council of the L. S. N. R.; Samuel Patterson, Lester Granger, Business Manager of "Opportunity" and head of the New Jersey Urban League, and Daniel J. Weems, of the New Jersey Y. M. C. A.

Rabbi Benjamin Goldstein; John Chamberlain of the New York Times Book Review department; Dorothy McKenna, and Henry Hart of the Editorial Board of Scribner's; Clarence Hathaway, editor of the Daily Worker, Communist candidate for Congress in the 7th District, Brooklyn.

New York Times

OCT 11 1934

REDS TOLD TO DROP SCOTTSBORO CASE

Defendants and Parents Want No More Aid From Them—Leibowitz Demanded Step.

HE REMAINS AS COUNSEL

Negro Churches Will Supplant Communists, Who Are Accused of Harming the Defense.

The Negro churches of the United States[redacted] supplant the Communist party henceforth as the mainstay of the Scottsboro case defense, according to a statement issued yesterday by Samuel S. Leibowitz, chief counsel for the accused Negroes.

In support of his statement, the attorney made public correspondence authorizing him to take full charge of the appeals of Clarence Norris and Haywood Patterson, now under sentence of death, together with the text of a resolution adopted by a conference of Negro clergymen in Harlem.

Included in the correspondence were letters from the condemned men, repudiating the International Labor Defense attorneys, and from their parents, warning Communist sympathizers not to collect funds in their behalf.

Leibowitz Demands Records.

On the basis of these letters, Mr. Leibowitz has called upon Joseph R. Brodsky of the International Labor Defense to turn over all records in the case within two days.

Relations have been strained between Mr. Leibowitz and the I. L. D. almost from the moment he entered the case at the instance of the Communist affiliate. The final break came as the result of the arrest of Sol Cohn and Sam Schriftman, or Daniel Swift, in the South on charges of attempting to bribe Victoria Price, the chief witness against the nine defendants.

When Mr. Leibowitz learned of the arrest of the two men, who are associated with Mr. Brodsky, he announced that he would not continue in the case unless the I. L. D. got out. Subsequently he was urged to continue as defense counsel by the Rev. A. C. Garner of Grace Congregational Church, the Rev. L. H. King of St. Mark's Methodist Episcopal Church, the Rev. James W. Brown of Mother Zion Church and the Rev. Richard E. Bolden of the First Emanuel Church. They pledged their backing and presented a resolution adopted last week by Negro ministers of New York, in which Mr Leibowitz was urged to stay in the case and "our support in any way he wishes" was pledged.

Ousting of Reds Demanded.

Mr. Leibowitz informed them he would not stay in the case unless the Communists were ousted. The delegation of ministers then went South and as a result, Mr. Leibowitz said, he received authorization from Norris and Patterson to take full charge of their cases before the United States Supreme Court.

Patterson, who has been sentenced to death three times for a crime of which he says he is innocent, wrote to Mr. Leibowitz that he had "no further interests nor confidences in the I. L. D. or any of its attorneys," who he said were "making things worse for me instead of making it better." He believed, he said, that he would have "been released long ago if it hadn't been for that I. L. D."

Norris expressed similar sentiments and both condemned men wrote the I. L. D. to take no further steps in their defense. Claude and Janie Patterson, parents of the condemned man, and Ada Wright mother of Roy and Andy Wright two of the defendants still awaiting trial, also wrote to the I. L. D. telling "all your agents, servants representatives and employes" to stop taking "any actions or steps with reference to these cases."

Mr. Brodsky, declaring that he "never was so disappointed in any one as I am in Mr. Leibowitz," said he feared the attorney was "more interested in personal aggrandizement than in the welfare of the defendants." The I. L. D., he said, had planned to retain Walter W. Pollock, the lawyer who once before won a new trial for the Negroes, to argue their appeal. He was sure, he said, that the defendants would reconsider their action.

LYNCHBURG, VA.
NEWS

OCT 4 1934

SCOTTSBORO AGAIN

(Richmond Times-Dispatch)

The famous, or infamous, Scottsboro case is back in the headlines once more. Two men are being held in Nashville on charges of having attempted to bribe Victoria Price, the principal witness for the prosecution to change her testimony. Another man is being held in Birmingham on a similar charge.

It is impossible to tell, as yet whether there is truth in the charges against the trio. Certainly the fact that Victoria Price says they are justified cannot be regarded as convincing. She has been convicted in the courts of adultery and vagrancy, and Judge Horton said from the bench at one of the Scottsboro trials that "there has been evidence tending to show that she gave false testimony."

If anybody has sought to bribe this woman to reverse her testimony—Ruby Bates, originally the other chief prosecution witness, reversed hers last year—then severe punishment should be meted out. But even if the charges of attempted bribery are sustained, it will not alter the conviction of millions of fair-minded and impartial persons in America and other lands that the Scottsboro defendants are innocent.

This is not the time or the place to review in detail the many factors which tend to discredit the prosecution's case. Suffice it to say that those factors are so important and so numerous that it is impossible to understand how any juror could view them impartially and then conclude that no "reasonable doubt" existed.

From the outset this case has been handled in a way which has cast discredit upon the whole judicial process not only of Alabama but also of the south as a whole. The impression has been created that there is one law in Dixie for whites and another for Negroes.

Th[redacted]agrant appeals to racial prejudice and bigotry which characterized the utterances of County Solicitor Wade Wright were disgusting to all southerners of intelligence and culture. It must be admitted, however, that the intemperate diatribes of Chief Defense Counsel Leibowitz made any subsequent impartiality on the part of Alabama juries difficult in the extreme. Leibowitz made a speech in New York in which he described the jurors who had convicted Heywood Patterson for the second time as "those bigots whose mouths are slits in their faces, whose eyes pop out like frogs', whose chins drip tobacco juice, bewhiskered and filthy."

This alone was enough to destroy the usefulness of Leibowitz for any further appearances before the courts of Alabama. In addition there was his employment in the case by the International Labor Defense, an organization closely affiliated with the communists. The I. L. D. seeks to promote "social equality" as between whites and Negroes, a fact which placed its counsel under a severe and almost fatal handicap from the start.

Death sentences for Heywood Patterson and Clarence Norris were set aside by the United States supreme court in 1932 on the ground that the defendants had not been given prompt and adequate legal representation at their first trial. Another trial was ordered, and they were sentenced to death again. As in the previous instance, the supreme court of Alabama upheld the convictions, but the cases are now pending again before the supreme court of the United States.

What action that tribunal will take in its second review of the cases is, of course, open to anyone's guess. All lovers of justice will indulge the hope, however, that another trial will be ordered. The defendants should have been acquitted in the first place, and that fundamental fact is not altered in any way by the charges of attempted bribery just preferred against three men under arrest in Nashville and Birmingham. One may be sure that if any such attempt was made, the plan was not formulated by seven young, ignorant and illiterate Negroes.

CLEVELAND, TENN.
BANNER

OCT 4 1934

THE SCOTTSBORO CASE AGAIN

The Scottsboro case, which has been in and out of the news for years, again erupts, this time with an alleged attempt to bribe one of the state's key witnesses.

Through the activities of northern organizations, the case has become not only a national controversy, but money to defend the negroes charged with attacking two [redacted]e girls who were bumming their way on a freight train, has been raised by speakers sent to foreign countries.

Perfervid orators have assured audiences, not only in America but in European countries, that Alabama justice was being used to legally "lynch" the accused negroes, who had been tried, found guilty on the evidence of their victims and sentenced to hang. New York organizations have sent attorneys to Alabama, who offended not only the courts but the public, by their sneering refences to southern justice.

One of the two girls on whose testimony the negroes were convicted mysteriously disappeared, and now evidence has been unearthed, according to Alabama authorities, that efforts to bribe the other girl to change her testimony have been made.

For more than three years this case has been kept alive by recourse to every possible legal technicality. Through the activities of outside organizations, the people and the courts of a sovereign state have been held up to scorn and abuse.

It is high time that this malodorous case be settled once and for all, and that an end be put to outside interence in the process of justice in Alabama. To that end, if it is proven that the men charged with bribery are guilty, they should be given the heaviest penalty authorized under the law.

The use of bribery to thwart the ends of justice strikes at the very foundations of civilization. If it has been attempted in the Scottsboro case, there can be no further doubt as to the real basis for the "indignation" expressed by influences generally antagonistic to the South.

Alabama

4690

Lynchings-1934

Legal Punishment for Rape

MILLER COMMUTES NEGRO'S SENTENCE

Advertiser

Tom Brown Saved From Chair After Second Hearing Before Governor

10-10-34

Basing his action on the clemency recommendation of Judge James E. Horton, of Decatur, who presided at the trial of Thomas Brown, negro, convicted in Morgan County of criminally assaulting a white woman, and sentenced to death, Gov. Miller yesterday commuted Brown's sentence to life imprisonment. The negro was to have been electrocuted at Kilby Prison early Friday morning.

Montgomery Ala

Within a few hours of the time originally set for his execution, Brown was granted a reprieve at the request of Judge Horton and Sheriff A. W. Davis, of Morgan County, pending the presenting of new evidence in the case, and a second clemency hearing which was held at the capitol last Saturday, was granted.

Following is the text of Gov. Miller's order of commutation:

"This is the second application of Thomas Brown for executive clemency.

"There is some additional testimony and additional recommendations.

"There is evidence that the environments of the woman are not conducive to good morals; that Brown is weak in mind and body, yet legally responsible.

"He still denies his guilt. It appears some witnesses through fear will not testify nor make affidavits and desire their names not mentioned

"Some of them talked with or made known their testimony to the trial judge. The judge heard all of the testimony at the trial. He heard some testimony since the trial. He is fair and impartial, has good judgment and the courage to express it.

"In his recent report to the Board of Pardons and Governor of the facts and circumstances of the case, heard and made known to him, he concludes as follows:

"'The tendency of all the information I have received both from whites and negroes causes me to be of the opinion that the negro's sentence should be commuted to life imprisonment.'

"This coming from the trial judge should and does have great weight with me.

"So it is my opinion that the sentence of death should be changed to imprisonment in the penitentiary for his life.

"Let order issue accordingly this 9th day of October, 1934."

Chattanooga, Tenn. Times
October 6, 1934

STILL, SCOTTSBORO.

The passage of three and a half years since the Scottsboro case started has served to befog the evidence in the public mind and to provide an opportunity for radical propagandizing, but as has been indicated several times before and as was indicated again last Thursday, it has been little to the purposes of justice. The Supreme Court of Alabama has declined to rehear the case, which defense counsel now plan to take to the United States Supreme Court for a second time. It would be inhumane to send the two Negroes on trial to the chair without every circumstance of orderly hearing; but it is likewise inhumane to suspend them through years of dread for no better purpose than to exploit their misery. In trafficking in the defendants' ignorance and suffering, the International Labor Defense is playing a dubious and dangerous game.

Agent of Lawyer Who Turned Against I.L.D. Talks of Violence

ATTACK IS FOILED

Daily Worker

White Attorney Acts as the Liberator Editor Gets Warning

10-18-34

Samuel Leibowitz called the office of the Daily Worker yesterday morning and demanded a retraction of a story on the Scottsboro case which appeared in the Wednesday (Oct. 17) issue. He was told that all the facts in the story were 100 per cent correct and so there could not possibly be anything to retract.

New York

MONTGOMERY, Ala., Oct. 17.—A threat to have Benjamin J. Davis, Jr., editor of the Negro Liberator and an attorney for the International Labor Defense, "run out of town" was made here yesterday morning by John Terry, private secretary and bodyguard to Samuel S. Leibowitz, it was revealed today.

The incident occurred in front of the State capitol. Davis was accompanied by C. B. Powell, white Birmingham attorney.

Terry, it was learned, walked up to Davis and engaged him in conversation.

"I'll have you run out of town," he finally said.

When Davis told him he would not get out, Terry made a threatening gesture as though to draw a pistol. At this moment Powell intervened.

"He has as much right to be here as you have," he told Terry.

Powell stepped between the two and prevented possible immediate physical violence to Davis, which seemed to threaten in advance of the violence threatened in Terry's "I'll have you run out of town."

Terry's background and connection with Leibowitz is described in Fred D. Pasley's book about the lawyer, published last year. The book is accepted as the authorized version of Leibowitz's career. Pasley says:

Daily Worker 10-18-34

"John Theodore Capozucca, nicknamed Terry, whilom jockey and flyweight boxer. Leibowitz in the early twenties defended a Tony Muzio, charged with slashing the throat of a Frank Tuorto. Much to the amazement of Tuorto's relatives, among them Capozucca his cousin, Leibowitz won an acquittal. Curiosity and grudging admiration getting the better of him, Capozucca visited Leibowitz at his office. He has been with him ever since.

"A rare understanding exists between these two. They compliment each other. They are inseparable. Terry is Leibowitz's eyes and ears and hands and feet in all matters of professional and personal detail. He thinks for him. He anticipates his every wish."

Dothan, Ala., Herald
October 4, 1934

SCOTTSBORO CASES.

The arrest of two persons on charges of attempted bribery of Victoria Price, chief state witness against the negroes in the Scottsboro cases, did not surprise state officials whose duty it is to enforce the laws, says Fred Gormley, columnist in Alabama Journal.

They had advance information that bribery had been attempted. Victoria Price had kept them informed.

The first proposal was made to the Price woman several days ago. She reported it to the sheriff of Madison county and chief of police of Huntsville who informed the attorney-general's department. The original offer to the state witness was $500 for a repudiation of her testimony against the negroes. She refused it and the amount was later raised to $1,000 and then to $1,500.

An investigation shows that a person convicted of bribing a witness is guilty of a felony.

Men may reform but most of them will recognize the dinner bell when they hear it.

Kind words will take the average man or woman a long way on the journey of life.

A government, administered for all citizens, should recognize no privileged class.

Nationalism is all right for those who are satisfied to ignore the rest of the world.

Scottsboro Pair Switches Counsel, Quits Leibowitz

News

10-17-34

MONTGOMERY, Ala.—(AP)—Warden George P. Walls, of Kilby Prison, announced Tuesday that Clarence Norris and Heywood Patterson, Negro defendants in the Scottsboro case, had signed releases authorizing the International Labor Defense to handle their defense, and revoking their agreement made last week with Samuel S. Leibowitz, New York attorney.

Birmingham Ala

George W. Chamblee, of Nashville, Tenn., associated with Leibowitz in the Scottsboro trials, was at Kilby Prison Tuesday attempting to persuade the Negroes to again name Leibowitz as their chief counsel, Warden Walls said.

10-17-34

Ben Davis, Negro attorney of Atlanta and International Labor Defense Counsel, also conferred with the Negroes in "death row" at Kilby Prison where they are held pending their appeal to the U. S. Supreme Court from the death sentences handed down in Morgan Circuit Court for allegedly attacking Victoria Price aboard a freight train near Paint Rock, Ala., in 1931.

Warden Walls said Patterson's mother urged him to retain the I. L. D. as counsel, while the Negro's father accompanied Chamblee and advised him to return to Leibowitz.

Last week the two Negroes signed releases naming Leibowitz as chief counsel but Warden Walls announced these releases had been revoked and similar releases signed authorizing the I. L. D. to handle the defense.

The seven Scottsboro case defendants in the Jefferson County Jail are still strong for Samuel Leibowitz as their attorney, although they are still taking the $2 sent each one weekly by the I. L. D. They asked if the "rucus" was still going on between "Mr. Leibowitz and Mr. Brodsky" and reiterated their stand for Leibowitz.

Seven Scottsboro Negroes Declare Faith In Attorney

NEW YORK, Oct. 19.—(AP)—A profession of faith in their attorney, Samuel S. Leibowitz, and repudiation of the International Labor Defense, was contained today in a letter signed by seven of the nine negro youths in the Scottsboro case.

Advertiser

Scrawled in ink, dated Oct. 17, and carrying the address of the Jefferson County Jail, Birmingham, Ala., where the seven youths are incarcerated, the letter received here said:

10-20-34

"We, the Scottsboro boys are with Mr. Samuel Leibowitz 100 per cent and don't want anything to do with the I. L. D. (International Labor Defense). Roy Wright has already written the I. L. D. and asked them to drop my case."

The first of the seven signatures was that of Olen Montgomery, in handwriting similar to that of the body of the letter.

Montgomery Ala

Brodsky was not available for comment regarding the letter but at his office it was said both he and the International Labor Defense had received letters from all of the negro youths and their mothers stating they had complete faith in the International Labor Defense and Brodsky, and that they were delighted to have Walter H. Pollak, assisted by Osmund K. Frankel, retained by I. L. D., to represent them.

SCOTTSBORO APPEAL FUND NEED URGENT

Daily Worker
10-16-34
New York, N.Y.

The broadest and most energetic mass action, at this crucial moment in the Scottsboro case, to prevent the lynchers from carrying out their death verdict against Clarence Norris and Haywood Patterson, was called for today by the International Labor Defense.

At the same time, the urgent need for funds to carry on the legal defense and the mass campaign to save the Scottsboro boys was stressed. Money is needed more urgently every day, as only 55 short days remain before the date of December 7, when the Alabama Supreme Court has decided the two Scottsboro boys must die, the I. L. D. announced.

10-16-34

The broad united front of defense for the Scottsboro boys must be established everywhere, in cities, towns, and states. Every element friendly to the defense, must be drawn into action to force the U. S. Supreme Court to accept the application for review of the cases which has been filed by the I. L. D. and to reverse the lynch decisions of the lower court.

Parades, demonstrations, meetings, and protests of every sort must be organized everywhere.

"Now, more than at any previous time, the shadow of the electric chair hangs over the Scottsboro boys," the I. L. D. said

Money to conduct the Scottsboro defense should be sent directly to the national office of the International Labor Defense, Room 610, 80 East 11th St., New York City.

No other organization, it was pointed out, has the right to collect money for Scottsboro defense except the I. L. D.

Conference Will Map Plans to Spread Mass Defense

LEADERS TO ATTEND

Daily Worker

Davis to Tell Facts of Leibowitz Maneuvers Against I. L. D.

10-20-34

Preparations for the Emergency Scottsboro Defense Conference to be held at St. Luke's Hall, 125 W. 130th St., tomorrow afternoon at 2 o'clock, were completed yesterday following the endorsement of the Conference Call by 44 prominent Negro and white persons, including William N. Jones, of the staff of the Baltimore Afro-American; Aaron Douglas, noted artist; Angelo Herndon, Eugene Gordon, Dr. Vernon Du Bois, Dr. J. J. Jones, and many representatives of mass organizations, unions, lodges, etc.

The conference, called jointly by the International Labor Defense and the League of Struggle for Negro Rights, will formulate plans to spread far and wide the mass fight to prevent the legal murder of the Scottsboro boys on Dec. 7. William N. Jones, chairman of the Provisional Emergency Scottsboro Defense Committee, organized last Wednesday night at a meeting at Lafayette Hall, will make a special trip from Philadelphia to participate in the conference. Ben Davis, Jr., editor of the Negro Liberator, who, with Mrs. Ida Norris, mother of Clarence Norris, was present at Kilby prison, Montgomery, Ala., when Norris and Haywood Patterson repudiated Samuel Leibowitz for his attempts to split the ranks of their defenders at this critical moment, will report to the conference. Davis is in possession of full information of the methods used by Leibowitz and his agents in the attempt to drive a wedge between the boys and the I.L.D., and will fully expose Leibowitz's maneuvers.

Members of the newly-organized Emergency Scottsboro Defense Committee have been active during the past few days in visiting organizations, urging the election of delegates to tomorrow's conference. Individual friends of the boys are also invited to attend.

I. L. D. BACKED, LEIBOWITZ IS REPUDIATED

Daily Worker
10-18-34

"We want our boys to stick by the I. L. D., the organization which has kept them alive for more than three years," Mrs. Ida Wright and Mrs. Janie Patterson, Scottsboro mothers, wrote in a letter received yesterday by the International Labor Defense, adding their repudiation of Samuel Leibowitz to those announced by the other mothers and the boys. The letter follows:

Montgomery, Ala.,
Oct. 16, 1934.

To the International Labor Defense,
80 E. 11th Street, Room 610,
New York City.

We, the undersigned mothers of the Scottsboro boys, want the International Labor Defense to continue its fight for the lives and freedom of our boys.

We want Mr. Joseph Brodsky, chief counsel for the I. L. D., Mr. Walter Pollok, great constitutional lawyer, and Mr. Osmond K. Fraenkel, noted attorney, to handle our boys' present appeals in the United States Supreme Court.

We will stick by the I. L. D. and its lawyers, Mr. Brodsky, Mr. Chamlee, and whomever the I. L. D. selects to handle our boys' cases.

We want our boys to stick by the I. L. D., the organization which has kept them alive for more than three years.

(Signed) Janie Patterson
Ada Wright

Witness:
Ben Davis.

Vote Communist against N.R.A. Attacks on Living Standards.

Hathaway, Haywood and Other Leaders To Be Among Speakers

Daily Worker

BEN DAVIS TO SPEAK

10-20-34

Marchers Will Converge at Lenox Avenue and 126th Street

New York, N.Y.

Calls for the full mobilization of their membership for the Scottsboro-Thaelmann protest demonstration and mass march through the streets of Harlem this afternoon were issued yesterday by the New York Council of the League of Struggle for Negro Rights, the Workers' Ex-Servicemen's League, and the Harlem Unemployment Council.

Members of the L.S.N.R. will gather at 2162 Seventh Avenue, at 11 a.m., members of the W.E.S.L. and the Unemployment Council at 109 West 133rd Street, at the same hour.

Other organizations and unattached individuals are asked to mobilize with their banners and slogans at 126th Street and Lenox Avenue, at 1 o'clock. A meeting at that corner will start promptly at 2 o'clock, with a number of prominent speakers who will briefly outline the present status of the Scottsboro case, the appeals filed with the U. S. Supreme Court for Haywood Patterson and Clarence Norris, and the history of the world-wide fight for the lives and freedom of the nine Scottsboro lads and of Ernst Thaelmann, leader of the German working class, now facing death before the Hitler lynch courts.

Clarence Hathaway, editor of the Daily Worker and Communist candidate for Congressman in the Seventh District (Brooklyn), will be the first speaker at the 126th Street meeting, taking the platform promptly at 2 o'clock in order to fill engagements in other parts of the city this afternoon.

James W. Ford, Communist candidate for Congress in the 21st District; Harry Haywood, National Secretary of the League of Struggle for Negro Rghts, and Communist candidate in the 19th A. D., Ruby Bates and Lester Carter, star Scottsboro defense witnesses; Merle C. Work, Communist candidate in the 21st A. D., Anna Damon, Acting National Secretary of the International Labor Defense, William Fitzgerald, Louis Sass, Louis Campbell, Unemployment Council, and Mike Walsh are maong the other Mike Walsh are among the other the meeting.

Ben Davis, Jr., Is Chosen Attorney

Tribune

Young Negro Lawyer Will Head Counsel for TWO SCOTTSBORO BOYS

10-19-34
Savannah, Ga.

Takes the Place of Samuel Liebowitz Who Withdreu from the Case

Montgomery, Ala., Oct. 17—Haywood Patterson and Clarence Norris, Scottsboro case defendants, today said they had chosen Ben Davis of Atlanta, Negro attorney for the International Labor Defense, to carry their appeals to the United States Supreme Court for the second time.

Their choice of Attorney Davis was interpreted as meaning they had repudiated an earlier statement saying they preferred Samuel Leibowitz, New York attorney who defended the accused men in their Alabama trials, as their counsel. Leibowitz, New York attorney who tinue representing them if the I. L. D. withdrew from the case.

Leibowitz charged that Communists and the I. L. D. had taken advantage of the Negroes' plight for propaganda purposes.

Patterson and Norris are confined in death cells at Kilby Prison here. The State Supreme Court has affirmed their convictions and death sentences on charges of assaulting two white women aboard a freight train near Scottsboro more than three years ago.

Cases of five of the seven defendants who were granted new trials by the United States' Supreme court after their original convictions are pending in state courts, second trial awoiting outcome of appeals for Patterson and Norris.

Warden George P. Walls said that George W. Chamlee, Chattanooga attorney associated with Leibowitz in defense counsel, had unsuccessfully attempted to persuade the defendants to repudiate the I. L. D. and allow Leibowitz to remain in charge of their cases.

Leibowitz In and Out

Samuel S. Leibowitz, white, New York attorney, announced last week that he had taken the cases of two of the Scottsboro boys (Haywood Patterson and Clarence Norris) out of the hands of the International Labor Defense (I.L.D.) and henceforth conduct the cases.

Afro-American

Reasons given on October 4 were that the I.L.D. had misused funds collected for the defense of the boys and were involved in the alleged recent attempt to bribe Victoria Price, a state witness.

Subsequently the I.L.D. issued a statement that the boys had not taken the case out of their hands and any documents to that effect signed by them at Leibowitz's suggestion were signed by mistake.

The death sentence for two of the boys is set for December 7. The second appeal to the United States Supreme Court must be made at once. Therefore, any disagreement now as to who shall represent the boys and file the appeal subjects the lives of all of them to unnecessary risk and threatens to destroy the magnificent fight for justice in Alabama which the I.L.D. has thus far carried on.

Afro-American

So far as we can see there are no involved issues. The I.L.D. employed Mr. Leibowitz in the Scottsboro cases. He accepted the assignment with his eyes open.

If he has now discovered any reason why he does not wish to act for his employer, he has a perfect right to withdraw from the case as he announced on October 4.

Certainly he has no right, and it is highly unethical for him to attempt, to push his employer, the I.L.D., out of the case entirely and assume the position of counsel-in-chief.

To save his face, there is the declaration that several New York ministers had asked him to take this step, but it seems fairly evident that what Mr. Leibowitz is doing is to inject himself as counsel into a case which the I.L.D. has conducted with success since April, 1931.

Maybe the I.L.D. is guilty of all the charges Mr. Leibowitz makes, but he has not proved them.

as an attorney.

Besides, he who makes such charges ought to come into court with clean hands. Instead he opens himself to the charge of unethical practice by injecting himself into case in which he is not properly employed

Lynchings-1934
Legal Punishment for Rape.

Alabama.

4691

MR. LEIBOWITZ WITHDRAWS

Crisis
10-1-34
New York

The day following announcement in the daily press that Samuel S. Leibowitz, legal representative for the nine Scottsboro defendants, had withdrawn from the case until Communists are removed from all active connection, the Alabama Supreme Court overruled an application for rehearing for Heywood Patterson and Clarence Norris and the date of their execution set for December 7.

The action of Alabama's highest court in refusing to reconsider its decision affirming two death sentences is no surprise. No one in the State expected a reversal of opinion. Outsiders who have been following the Scottsboro trials and given a taste of Alabama "justice" failed to see the faintest ray of hope.

If the lives of the nine defendants are to be saved and they are to be tried in accordance with the law and evidence, not prejudice and hysteria, it will be through the intervention of the Federal Supreme Court at Washington. There is no hope of securing justice for the defendants when it is recalled that an upright, courageous Judge, who made impartial rulings at one of the Scottsboro trials was voted out of office and denied reelection. He incurred the wrath of the hillbillies for not rendering demagogical decisions from the bench.

In giving the reasons for his withdrawal from the Scottsboro case, Mr. Leibowitz alleged that his defense had been hampered by mysterious moves behind the scenes by the International Labor Defense, citing the arrest of two men in Nashville charged with attempting to bribe Victoria Price. "The defense needed no such help," he asserted.

Mr. Leibowitz further stated that he did not propose to have his clients exploited to provide funds for "Red" marches on Washington, vowing that until secret maneuvers, ballyhoo, mass pressure and all such Communist methods are removed he could not continue for the defense.

The position taken by Mr. Leibowitz is fully appreciated by those who have done their level best to be fair to the International Labor Defense and give the organization due credit. But the ballyhoo, exploitation of men, women and children throughout Northern centers for financial consideration, marches on Washington and various questionable acts make it extremely difficult to determine when whole-hearted cooperation should be given, even in so worthy a cause as saving the lives of the Scottsboro boys.

It is the hope of all admirers of Mr. Leibowitz that conditions will be conducive to his resumption as counsel for the defense.

N. Y. HERALD
OCT 13 1934

2d Scottsboro Case Plea Up in U.S. Supreme Court

Negroes' Counsel Submit Records of Alabama Proceedings

WASHINGTON, Oct. 12 (AP).—The Scottsboro, Ala., assault case, involving charges of criminal assault of two white women by a group of Negroes today reached the Supreme Court again. When the controversy was in the high court on a previous occasion the court set aside the conviction of the men, holding they had not been given proper assistance of counsel.

Attorneys representing Haywood Patterson and Clarence Norris, two of the Negroes, put before the court today voluminous records covering the proceedings in the Alabama courts which resulted in the conviction of the men and the imposition of death sentences upon them. The attorneys gave notice they would promptly file the appeal papers.

The grounds for the appeal will cover substantially those urged in the Alabama Supreme Court. These declared the defendants had not been given a fair and impartial trial required by the Federal Constitution; had been forced to trial in a hostile county where armed guards were necessary to protect the defendants and their counsel; that there were no Negroes on the grand jury list; that many of the jurors with fixed opinions were not excused by the trial court; that the trial court was prejudiced against the defendants and that it committed grave errors in its charge to the jury, and in refusing to give instructions to the jury requested by counsel for the defendants.

The Alabama Supreme Court held the defendants had been given a fair trial, and approved the action of the trial court.

Scottsboro Pair Hire Liebowitz

Advertiser

Moreover, Patterson And Norris Are On Record In Repudiation Of I. L. D.

10-12-34

While the controversy waxed warmer in New York yesterday between Samuel Liebowitz and representatives of the International Labor Defense and Communists there, as to who will represent the "Scottsboro case" negro defendants in the future, the developments here indicated Mr. Liebowitz has stolen a march on his opponents and cinched the job as counsel for at least two of the negroes, Haywood Patterson and Clarence Norris, now confined at Kilby Prison.

Montgomery Ala.

Another development was the apparent identification of two I. L. D. lawyers, Sol H. Cohn and Eli Schriffman, as S. Kone and Daniel Swift, now being held at Huntsville following their extradition from Nashville, Tenn., on charges of attempting to bribe Mrs. Victoria Price, key State witness in the "Scottsboro cases," to repudiate her testimony against the negroes. Cohn and "Kone" and Schriffman and "Swift" are one and the same, according to information obtained at the office of Atty Gen. Thomas E. Knight, Jr.

While Mr. Knight was in Nashville to represent the State in the extradition of Kone and Swift, there arrived here from New York, one Raymond J. Riley, accompanied by John Copozucci, bringing a letter of introduction from Liebowitz to the Attorney General, in which he said Riley was an attorney associated with him, and that Copozucci was "affectionately" called "Terry." He asked that Riley be permitted to interview Haywood Patterson and Clarence Norris at Kilby. The permission was granted by Gov. Miller, and the interviews were had. Copies of the fruits of Riley's talk with the two condemned negroes were left at Mr. Knight's office by Riley before he went back to New York.

These "fruits" consisted of a series of letters and statements signed by Patterson and Norris, respectively, to the effect that Mr. Liebowitz and Mr. Liebowitz only, is to represent them in all matters concerned with anything affecting their cases.

Norris's documentary authorizations were extensive. He signed a statement saying "I hereby hire" Samuel Liebowitz of 225 Broadway, New York," to be my lawyer in any case," adding: "I don't want any other and Mr. Liebowitz is to have complete charge of my case." He signed a power of attorney for Liebowitz to act for him in all matters; and he wrote a letter to Joseph Brodsky, in which he said: "I don't want you or anyone connected with you to handle my case on appeal. I wish Mr. Samuel Liebowitz to be my lawyer and I am satisfied for him to be the boss."

Advertiser

Patterson also signed some equally interesting documents. The first was a letter addressed to "International Labor Defence Communist Parties; Osmond Frankel, Sol H. Cohn, G. W. Chamblee, Eli Schriffman and all others." After naming them, he wrote that he did not want them as his lawyers; that he didn't want them to call to see him any more, and directed that they "turn over to Mr. Samuel Liebowitz all papers in his case at once." He also signed a statement designating Liebowitz as his lawyer, and likewise affixed his signature to a power of attorney to be turned over to Liebowitz.

10-12-34

Brodsky, Frankel and Chamblee, as former associates of Liebowitz, have at various times in the past all appeared before the Alabama Supreme Court here to argue appeals on behalf of Norris and Patterson. Liebowitz now declares he is representing only the negroes themselves and a group of negro clergymen. Cohn and Schriffman, mentioned by Patterson are the two now in jail at Huntsville as "Kone" and "Swift" it is alleged.

Montgomery Ala.

Records Of Scottsboro Case Go To Washington

Advertiser

At the request of defense counsel, who have filed petition for certiorari for reviewal by the U. S. Supreme Court of decisions by the Supreme Court of Alabama affirming judgment of the Morgan Circuit Court in the cases of Haywood Patterson and Clarence Norris, two of the seven negro "Scottsboro case" defendants, and thereafter overruling applications for rehearing, records of proceedings in both cases were forwarded yesterday by Gen. Robert F. Ligon, clerk of the State Supreme Court, to the clerk of the nation's highest tribunal in Washington.

10-13-34
Montgomery
Ala.

SCOTTSBORO CASE UP

News

Death Sentences Reach U. S. Supreme Court Second Time

10-13-34

WASHINGTON— (AP) —The Scottsboro, Ala., assault case, involving charges of criminal assault of two white women by a group of Negroes Friday reached the Supreme Court again.

When the controversy was in the high court on a previous occasion the court set aside the conviction of the men, holding they had not been given proper assistance of counsel.

Birmingham
Ala.

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The grounds for the appeal will cover substantially those urged in the Alabama Supreme Court. These declared the defendants had not been given a fair and impartial trial required by the federal constitution, had been forced to trial in a hostile county where armed guards were necessary to protect the defendants and their counsel; that there were no Negroes on the Grand Jury list; that many of the jurors with fixed opinions were not excused by the trial court; that the trial court was prejudiced against the defendants and that it committed grave errors in its charge to the jury and in refusing to give instructions to the jury requested by counsel for the defendants.

The Alabama Supreme Court approved the action of the trial court.

Daily Worker 8-15-34 New York, N.Y.

HERNDON FUND DRIVE IS STORY OF WORKING-CLASS DEVOTION

Hundreds of Small Sums Made Up $18,724 Bail Total

By ANNA DAMON

The International Labor Defense can record a great victory.

Angelo Herndon has been wrested temporarily from the hands of the Georgia lynchers by the determination of thousands of workers and sympathizers; a determination which hurled its defiance at the fascist vigilante terror sweeping across the country; a determination which shouted from coast to coast, above the clamor of the lynchers: "Angelo Herndon shall not go to the chain gang!"

Angelo Herndon has become a symbol of working class heroism, of the new spirit of the American youth, Negro and white.

His release on bail was made possible by the self-sacrificing devotion of thousands of workers and sympathizers, who, in 23 short days, raised penny by penny and dollar by dollar, the sum of $18,723.85, in loans toward the oversubscribed bail fund of $15,000. The enthusiastic support given to this campaign by the Daily Worker was one of the most important contributions to its success.

It would take pages to convey a real idea of the intensity and enthusiasm of the response expressed in the hundreds of letters which accompanied the loans and the contributions to the Scottsboro-Herndon defense fund.

What Workers Wrote

Here are a few extracts from these letters:

"I am 19 years old. Have been out of work for six months. This $10 is my first pay. May it help free Angelo Herndon." (From a girl worker in Allentown, Pa.)

"I collected tonight 50 cents from L.— for Herndon defense or bail fund and then I can't give more than 50 cents myself, but I'll try to raise another dollar or so and send it in next Monday. **He got to be free.**

"P. S. This is a donation to the case, so it does not have to be paid back." (Moline, Ill.)

"We are enclosing $40. May we h[illegible] that the whole sum will be raised so he will be free." (Karl Liebknecht Branch I. W. O., Philadelphia.)

"I am enclosing a money order for $5 contributed by a few teachers studying at the Cornell summer session, as one drop in the bucket for the $15,000 bail for Angelo Herndon." (Ithaca, N. Y.)

"I am just terribly sorry I can't give or lend a thousand. This $1 looks too trivial to send. But may it be multiplied a thousand-fold by some miracle." (West Grove, Pa.)

"I am sending herewith enclosed U.S. bonds in amount of $600 to get our Angelo Herndon off the chain gang. Enuf said. Yours for the revolution." (Granada, Colo.)

"Good people: Thirty cents in stamps, best I can do. Sorry." (New York City.)

"Enclosed find $2 for the Scottsboro-Herndon fund. I wish I could give more, but I am a subject of charity myself. If it were not for my children I don't know how I could live. I am only an old farmer, 77 years old." (Howell, Mich.)

And among the very first contributions was one of $10 attached to a bail loan blank clipped from the Daily Worker, from a small town in Ontario, Canada.

The simple facts of the bail fund campaign are tremendously significant for the broad working class defense movement led by the International Labor Defense, indicating in broad strokes the tremendous, untouched reserves of militant class solidarity which the I. L. D. must, dropping the last vestiges of sectarianism behind, reach out and grasp:

Daily Worker 8-15-34 New York N.Y.

Seven hundred and ninety-seven separate loans from individuals and organizations went to make up the fund.

Fifteen national mass organizations, with a total membership reaching into the hundreds of thousands, participated.

Approximately 5,000 workers and sympathizers were drawn into active participation in the campaign.

Ten I. L. D. districts raised $4,293.50 of the total. Of these the New York District, though slow in getting started, made the best showing, raising a total of $2,222.50 in bail fund loans.

Two hundred and fifty-five individuals loaned from $1 to $5; 202 individuals loaned from $5 to $10; 142 individuals loaned from $10 to $25; 73 individuals loaned from $25 to $50; 50 individuals loaned from $50 to $100; 55 individuals loaned $100 or more.

Loans came came from 23 States, including California, where the fiercest vigilante fascist terror raged throughout the period of the drive, and from Canada.

The campaign gained momentum slowly, but in the last few days funds poured in as fast as they could be entered in the books. The first Herndon bail loan came on July 9. By July 26, only $2,865.96 had been collected—15 days had gone by, only seven days were left, and only one-seventh of the total amount had been collected. On that day the Daily Worker began to print totals collected every day. On July 26, the figure jumped to a total of more than $5,000. On the 27th, with five more days to go, the half-way mark was passed. On Monday, the 29th, with only three days more to go, only $8,627 had been sent in. In two days $4,000 more came in.

By the last day a little over $14,000 had come in, and by the end of Aug. 2 the fund had been oversubscribed. After that hundreds of dollars in loans were turned back.

During this period, about $1,200 had been raised in contributions for the $15,000 Scottsboro-Herndon defense fund, which must be completed by Aug 31. It is significant that practically all of this amount was contributed in very small individual sums.

The entire campaign for the Herndon bail was carried through at an expense of about $125, thanks to the dozens of volunteers outside of the regular staff of the I. L. D. who sacrificed their spare time to stuff envelopes, type and carry out other essential tasks.

Fight for Full Freedom

Now we have brought Herndon out of his Georgia torture-chamber. We have saved him for a time from the lynchers. Now we must renew and redouble our fight to keep him out. Every organization of workers and sympathizers, hundreds of thousands of new forces, must be rallied to participate in the fight for the complete freedom of Herndon and the Scottsboro boys.

Aug. 22, the anniversary of the execution of Sacco and Vanzetti, is the date set for huge demonstrations all over the U. S. A. to demand full freedom for the Scottsboro boys and Angelo Herndon.

Daily Worker 8-15-34 New York N.Y.

Many of the I. L. D. districts have already begun preparations to make this a day which will put fear into the heart of the ruling class. Preparatory conferences for mobilization for this day as well as to put into action the machinery for sustained support for the defense of the Scottsboro boys and Herndon, and for a drive for the Bill of Negro Rights and the Suppression of Lynching, are on the way in many districts.

The Herndon Tour

There is little time left. The Districts of the I. L. D. must without delay renew the contacts previously made through the Scottsboro Action Committees, consolidate them and broaden out still further. The entire working class movement must be mobilized behind this campaign, and every force available used to reach new masses of workers and sympathizers.

The Scottsboro-Herndon petition and collection lists must be put into the hands of the members of the I. L. D. and of the mass organizations, and especially of the trade unions. A thorough and constant check-up must be made on these lists, and the lists themselves as well as the money collected on them sent to the National Office without any delay.

Plans should begin to be laid now in the various districts for the Herndon tour, which should help crystallize a tremendous movement over the entire country for the fight against terror and fascism, for the defense of the Scottsboro boys and of Herndon himself, of Tom Mooney and the 500 West Coast prisoners.

In all of these activities steps must be taken to recruit members into the I. L. D., to strengthen it organizationally, and to build the circulation of the Labor Defender, official organ of the I. L. D. and the only working class pictorial in America.

Only Mass Pressure

The workers have saved Angelo Herndon from the chain gang. But Angelo Herndon is not free yet. The nine innocent Scottsboro Negro boys are still in prison, still under the shadow of the lynchers' electric chair. While the sentence against him—18 to 20 years on the chain gang—is being appealed, Angelo Herndon is at liberty. But if the U. S. Supreme Court decides against him, he must go back into the hands of the Georgia lynch officials.

Daily Worker 8-15-34 New York N.Y.

The Supreme Court can be forced to give a decision in Herndon's favor, can be forced to reverse the monstrous lynch decision against the Scottsboro boys only by mass pressure.

It is this pressure that we must now organize, on a far broader scale than ever before. We must collect, with the same speed, at the same tempo, that we collected the Herndon bail, the $12,673 still needed toward appealing these cases.

The fight to free Angelo Herndon, the Scottsboro boys, Ernst Thaelmann and the victims of the terror on the West Coast, is the fight against the growing menace of fascism in this country. What is at stake in the Herndon case is the right of workers to organize, to strike, to read workers' literature, to belong to the Party of the working class. What is at stake is the right of two oppressed groups of workers, white and black, to organize together to fight for their rights.

What is at stake in the Herndon and Scottsboro cases is the rights of a nation of 13,000,000 Negroes and of the millions of white workers, poor farmers and impoverished middle class people over the whole country.

The victory achieved in raising the Herndon bail fund, in forcing the release of Herndon on bail must be made a complete victory—the complete freedom of Herndon and the Scottsboro boys.

Forward in the fight to secure the freedom of Herndon, the Scottsboro boys, Ernst Thaelmann, the prisoners arrested on the West Coast and all class-war prisoners!

Herndon-Scottsboro Appeal Expenses Mount While Contributions to the $15,000 Fund Lag

Daily Worker 8-15-34 New York N.Y.

NEW YORK.—That funds for the $15,000 Scottsboro-Herndon defense fund are lagging dangerously, endangering the entire campaign, was the warning issued yesterday by the National Office of the International Labor Defense.

To date, only $2,327 has come in over a period of six weeks, with only seventeen days left to complete the collections, and daily expenses for preparation of the legal papers and other work essential to the presentation of the cases of Heywood Patterson and Clarence Norris and of Angelo Herndon to the U. S. Supreme Court mounting steadily.

At the same time, it was pointed out that the nature of the contributions coming in show the huge possibilities for developing this campaign.

A group of share-croppers in Mississippi—the most oppressed and the poorest of the toiling masses—who sent to the national office of the I. L. D. for Scottsboro-Herndon collection lists, reurned three of them within a week, with $4.34 collected on them, and a promise of more collections.

Other contributions have been mostly in denominations of one and two dollars, collected by individuals.

A number of those who made loans to the Herndon bail fund have returned their certificates to free a portion of the amount over-subscribed for the bail fund. Special honor certificates, signed by Angelo Herndon, will be issued to all those making this exchange.

Funds should be rushed to the National Office of the I. L. D., 80 East 11th Street, New York.

Now $15,000 Is Needed for Scottsboro-Herndon Appeal Expense

Lynchings-1934
Legal Punishment for Rape.

Alabama.

4692

Use Scottsboro Case As Precedent In St. Louis Police Court Plea

Courier 8-18-34
Pittsburgh, Pa.

Two Clients Granted Writs Of Habeas Corpus By Circuit Judge Williams; Alabama Case Decision Cited As An Example.

ST. LOUIS, Aug. 16—(ANP)—Morris Levin, attorney, cited a United States Supreme court decision in the famous Scottsboro case to win writs of habeas corpus for two clients who had been fined $33 each the day before in Police Judge Vest's court. The writs were granted by Circuit Judge Williams.

Levin contended his clients, West May, 3114 Caroline street and August Russell, 2927a Park avenue were denied the right of counsel by Judge Vest. He cited the Scottsboro decision which held the defendants had been denied the right of hearing because they were not allowed to have a lawyer. May and Russell, who is white, were arrested Saturday for a disturbance at the offices of unit B of the citizens committee on Relief and Employment, 2321 Mullanphany street.

Scottsboro-Herndon New York Tag Days Planned Aug. 18 to 22

Worker
New York

NEW YORK.—A special drive to raise a large portion of New York's quota for the $15,000 Scottsboro-Herndon defense fund is being conducted by the district of the I. L. D. here, which will hold tag-days August 18 to 22.

The N. Y. district of the I. L. D. has called on all working-class organizations to lend their fullest support and take an active part in these tag-days—vital to the defense of Herndon and the Scottsboro boys. All material for the tag-days is ready now, it was announced, and should be called for at the District I. L. D. office, 870 Broadway, at once, by all those who will take part in the collections.

NEW YORK SUN

OCT 1 1934

BRIBE CHARGE IN NEGRO CASE

Man Is Accused of Offering $1000 to Witness.

TWO OTHERS ARE ARRESTED

One Held in Nashville Says He Is New York Lawyer.

HUNTSVILLE, Ala., Oct. 1 (A. P.).—The police announced today that they were holding a man they identified as J. W. Pearson of Birmingham, on a warrant charging attempted bribery of Victoria Price, prosecution witness in the Scottsboro attack case.

Pearson, the police said, was taken into custody on the warrant sworn out by Mrs. Price, just outside of Huntsville on Saturday, as he and Mrs. Price drove out of the city en route to Nashville.

Chief of Police H. C. Blakemore said extradition proceedings for a man known as "Daniel Swift," now held at Nashville, would be instituted, but he had no charges against Sol Kone, also held by Tennessee authorities.

The police said Mrs. Price told them last week that Pearson had sought to bribe her, making an offer five weeks ago of 5500 to sign affidavits changing her testimony against the nine Negro defendants accused of attacking her and Ruby Bates aboard a Southern Railway freight train in Jackson county March 25, 1931.

Mrs. Price, according to the police, advised them last Thursday that the man was back and had raised the alleged offer to $1,000. Mrs. Price accepted, advising police that she was to go to Nashville Saturday with Pearson to get the money.

Chief of Police Blakemore had officers stationed on the highway to intercept Mrs. Price and Pearson, and arrested the man. A warrant then was sent to Nashville for the arrest of "Daniel Swift," whom police were informed would fly to the Tennessee capital from New York with the money.

Two Held in Nashville.

NASHVILLE, Tenn., Oct. 1 (A. P.).—Two men were held in Davidson county jail here today in connection with an alleged bribery development in Alabama's famous Scottsboro case.

Chief Deputy Sheriff J. E. Murray said that two would be turned over to Huntsville, Ala., authorities. One of them was charged with bribery in a warrant received from the Huntsville Sheriff and the other was committed to jail, he said, but on what grounds he did not know.

The men were arrested yesterday afternoon soon after they had flown here in a chartered airplane from Cincinnati and registered at a local hotel, as S. Kone of Louisville and D. Swift of Cincinnati.

At the jail they were booked as Dan Swift and Sol Kone. The Nashville Tennessean said that "Swift" told, under quizzing, that he was a New York lawyer.

C. H. Wherung, aviator, who flew the chartered plane in which the two arrived, waited for several hours yesterday at Sky Harbor to fly them back north to Cleveland from whence, Tom Ridley, airport manager, said, they had bookings into New York.

Wherung said the pair told him they left Newark, N. J., Airport Saturday morning, going to Cleveland and thence to Cincinnati. They left Cincinnati Sunday morning.

For a New Scottsboro Drive

Daily Worker
10-9-34
New York

THE Alabama Supreme Court for the third time has denied the appeal of the International Labor Defense against the lynch verdicts of death against Heywood Patterson and Clarence Norris, two of the Scottsboro boys. This court has set the date for their execution—their murder—for Dec. 7.

Coinciding with this action, new vicious attacks were launched against the Scottsboro campaign and defense led by the International Labor Defense and the Communist Party. Samuel Leibowitz, former trial counsel in the case for the I. L. D. slandered the mass campaign to free the boys, and in Alabama two attorneys were framed on the charge of attempting to bribe Victoria Price.

The I.L.D. is once again taking the Scottsboro case to the United States Supreme Court.

Now, more than ever before, it is the mass pressure of the Negro and white workers, the farmers, and their friends throughout the United States and throughout the world, which can force the U. S Supreme Court to review the case and free these innocent boys unconditionally.

These facts place upon our Party the immediate responsibility of exerting every effort to develop the most intensive and the broadest mass campaign to defeat the plans of the landlord and industrial lynchers and to free the Scottsboro boys.

The Central Committee calls upon all district committees to take immediate steps to mobilize the entire Party organization to carry out the present necessary tasks in the Scottsboro campaign.

The district committees are called upon to take the following steps in support of the actions undertaken in this campaign by the International Labor Defense and League of Struggle for Negro rights.

1. Mobilize all fractions for participation in all mass organizations and trade unions for the preparation of broad united front Scottsboro Committees of Action. Those that already exist must be reactivized. These united front committees must hold Emergency Conferences on the broadest scale under their auspices. Every effort must be made to involve the Socialist Party, A. F. of L. locals, local Negro reformist organizations, N. A. A. C. P., Urban League, Garveyite, church, social, pro-Japanese organizations, etc. These conferences must not be delayed. They must be the means for developing an extensive campaign which will reach new and larger masses of workers and farmers.

2. The Scottsboro campaign must be tied up with the entire anti-fascist struggle. On this basis we must draw into the campaign the widest number of workers, intellectuals, professionals, and other groups.

3. Every support must be given by Communist Party committees and fractions to the financial campaign for funds for the Scottsboro case. Large sums of money will be necessary for the legal steps alone. The campaign must not be endangered by any shortage of funds.

4. Mass meetings, parades and demonstrations on the Scottsboro issue must be arranged in all possible centers and sections, mobilizing the Negro and white masses for protest actions.

5. At every mass meeting, large or small, and in every organization, resolutions must be presented addressed to the United States Supreme Court and to President Roosevelt, both at Washington, protesting against the decision of the Alabama Supreme Court and demanding the immediate, unconditional release of the Scottsboro boys. Special efforts must be made to secure the adoption of such resolutions in A. F. of L., independent, and T.U.U.L. unions.

6. The Scottsboro campaign must be bound up with all of our election campaign activities from now on. We must demand of all capitalist and Socialist candidates that they take a definite public stand on this question. Our own candidates must make their position clear not only in words but in direct participation in Scottsboro actions.

7. We must make serious efforts to build the League of Struggle for Negro Rights, and to increase the circulation of the Negro Liberator during the course of the present campaign. At the same time, the I.L.D., through its independent activities and leadership, must be strengthened organizationally.

There is no time to be lost. Application for review by the U. S. Supreme Court of the Scottsboro decision will be made by the I.L.D. within a few days. To force the acceptance of this application, to force the reversal of the Scottsboro lynch verdicts, will require tremendous efforts, a mass campaign of struggle, and the mobilization of the masses on a broader scale than ever before.

The Scottsboro boys must be freed!

COMMITTEE PRESSES FIGHT FOR HERNDON AND SCOTTSBORO 9

Daily Worker

N.Y.

NEW YORK—Plans were completed to broaden and intensify the mass fight for the freedom of the Scottsboro Boys, Ernst Thaelmann and Angelo Herndon, and the Bill for Negro Rights and the Suppression of Lynching was indorsed unanimously at the Emergency Scottsboro - Herndon Conference held Wednesday night at St. Paul's Church, [illegible] W. 132nd St., Harlem.

The conference, marked by militant enthusiasm and determination, was attended by 210 delegates of Negro and white organizations with memberships totaling more than 133,000 persons. Allen Taub of the National Committee for the Defense of Political Prisoners, was elected chairman of the conference.

Daily Worker

One of the high points of the meeting was an address by the Rev. J. A. Martin, the Atlanta Negro minister, who accompanied Angelo Herndon to New York following his release on bail from his torture cell in Fulton Tower Prison, Atlanta, Ga.

Richard B. Moore, national field organizer of the International Labor Defense, delivered the main report. Moore outlined the struggle led by the I. L. D. for Herndon and the Scottsboro boys, and introduced proposals for further activities in the fight to save Herndon from torture and death on the Georgia chain gang, and the Scottsboro boys from legal lynching in the electric chair.

In a sub report, Ben Davis, Jr., former defense attorney for Herndon and now editor of the Negro Liberator, dwelt upon the role of the League of Struggle for Negro Rights and the Negro Liberator in the fight for the release of the Scottsboro boys and the complete freedom of Herndon. He dealt primarily with the Bill for Negro Rights and the Suppression of Lynching, drawn up by the L. S. N. R., and contrasted it with the ambiguous, so-called Costigan-Wagner anti-lynching bill, supported by the N. A. A. C. P. leaders. He pointed out that the aim of the sponsors of the Costigan-Wagner Bill was to deceive the masses with illusions that the lynch rulers would themselves stop lynching, and thus divert the masses from the necessary mass fight against lynching.

The conference unanimously adopted the program of action brought back by the resolutions committee. The main proposals of this program are: (1) the widest popularization of the L. S. N. R Bill; (2) a signature and fund-raising campaign for the defense of the Scottsboro Boys and Herndon; (3) another national conference in October, at which a delegation will be elected to go before Congress to demand passage of the L. S. N. R. Bill.

The conference voted authority to the resolutions committee to call a meeting of all delegates present, which would resolve itself into a Committee of Action with power to enlarge itself and to carry out the decisions of the conference. Harry Haywood was elected secretary of the Committee of Action, and Davis, assistant secretary.

Wednesday night's conference is the first of a series of national Scottsboro-Herndon conferences to be held throughout the country.

GOV. MILLER HEARS BROWN'S NEW PLEA

Attorney Declares Feeling At Decatur Has Worked Against Negro

Advertiser
10-7-34
Montgomery Ala

The second plea for clemency of Thomas Brown, Morgan County negro, condemned to death for criminally assaulting a white woman, was taken under consideration by Gov. Miller and members of the State Board of Pardons following a hearing at the Capitol yesterday morning at which J. N. Powell, of Hartselle, attorney for the negro, urged commutation of sentence in the case to life imprisonment, on the grounds there is a possibility that Brown is innocent and that, even if he is guilty he is mentally irresponsible. Brown, who is to be executed at Kilby Prison early next Friday morning unless Gov. Miller interferes, denies his guilt, claiming an alibi.

Mr. Powell, defense counsel, declared his witnesses had been threatened and became intimidated and that they were afraid to put their testimony into written affidavit form. He said that trial at Decatur on a change of venue of two of the "Scottsboro" cases had prejudiced the people of Morgan County on the racial question, and stating he had asked his witnesses to go to Judge Horton who presided at Brown's trial and impart the information they had to him, said he did not understand why Judge Horton had not transmitted this information to the Governor and Board of Pardons. Judge Horton has recommended Brown's sentence be commuted.

The attorney vigorously attacked the character of the woman who was the victim of the assault and claimed Brown is physically abnormal, unhealthy and mentally defective. Mary Brown, mother of the condemned, made a highly emotional appeal for the life of her "only son," falling to her knees and weeping as she testified he has always been sickly and was under the care of a doctor when he was arrested.

Collier Compton, Decatur real estate man, said he had known Brown and the white woman the negro was convicted of attacking for a number of years. Her people were of bad reputation, he stated, and people of like reputation frequently visited the home. He said he had rented a house to her people and had rented another house just across the street to some negroes with whom Tom Brown stayed.

Police Officers J. W. McCall and W. P. Moore, of Decatur, who arrested Brown, repeated their testimony at the negro's trial and told of how he attempted to run when they were about to take him into custody. They said Brown's appearance tallied with the description given by the woman of her assailant and that after he was arrested he turned over to officers who searched him, a knife answered her description of the one with which she said her life had been threatened. Neither officer knew of the woman having a bad reputation, they said, but declared they did know that she had at various times furnished information that aided authorities in enforcing the law.

As to Brown's attempt to escape when he saw the officers approaching, defense counsel referred to the negro's previous testimony that he had a pint of whisky in his possession at the time; that he thought the officers were going to arrest him for having the whisky, and that he threw it under a nearby house before he started to run.

Circuit Solicitor Wade Wright, representing the prosecution, relied wholly on the testimony submitted by witnesses for the State at Brown's trial.

INTIMIDATION HINTED IN TOM BROWN CASE

Advertiser

Negro's Lawyer Tells Miller Witnesses Won't Make Affidavits

10-4-34
Montgomery Ala

First intimation of intimidation of witnesses who were to have appeared at a hearing scheduled to take place Tuesday at the capitol, on behalf of Thomas Brown, condemned Morgan County negro—was contained in a letter received by Gov. Miller yesterday from J. N. Powell, of Hartselle, counsel for Brown.

The letter was written Oct. 2, following receipt by the attorney of a telegram from the governor in which, referring to a message from Mr. Powell to the effect that he was busy trying cases in circuit court and that witnesses for Brown were financially unable to make the trip to Montgomery to testify at the hearing—directed the defense counsel to present his evidence for the negro, not later than Saturday of this week.

In his communication to the chief executive, Mr. Powell said:

"I had the parties who were going to make affidavits to the new evidence in this case which was very vital, but they were, in some way intimidated and they grew afraid to make affidavit, but declared they knew. I then tried to raise financial help to transfer them to the hearing set for today but could not raise the money. I then had a man carry them before Judge Horton in my absence and state to him the facts, and my understanding, after talking over the phone with Judge Horton that some of them came before him and made statements which, undoubtedly led him to recommend life for Tom Brown.

"I do not know just what they said, but I asked him this morning after receiving your telegram, if he would care, in case you and the board requested him, to make a statement in full to you of just what these negroes said to him, and he said if you requested he would be glad to write or tell you the particulars. In this instance, governor, is it asking too much of you and the board to make this inquiry of Judge Horton? You, doubtless, can see the delicacy of this case, and how extremely hard it is to get the real facts as they really exist in this matter.

"In the meantime I shall do everything possible to get these parties to make affidavits which I have had prepared since the extension of Brown's parole, and shall do everything that is within my power to get the real facts as they are before you by Saturday next as suggested in your telegram. I shall always be grateful to you for the extension of sentence regardless of present outcome of this case."

Gov. Miller advised the attorney by wire, that he had conferred with Judge James E. Horton, trial judge in the case, as suggested, and that if Judge Horton sends written statements to Montgomery they will receive the consideration of himself and the State pardon board.

Judge Horton has recommended that the death sentence imposed on Brown following his conviction of criminally assaulting a white woman, and which is to be executed at Kilby Prison on Oct. 12, be commuted to life imprisonment. No recommendation was made by Sheriff A. W. Davis, of Morgan County, who joined with the trial judge in a request for a 30-day reprieve for the negro "pending new evidence." At the time the reprieve was granted the governor set a second clemency hearing for last Tuesday afternoon.

GOVERNOR SAVES TOM BROWN'S LIFE

Death Sentence Commuted To Life Imprisonment For Convicted Attacker

Advertiser
10-3-34
Montgomery Ala

Recommendation for the commutation to life imprisonment of the death sentence imposed on Thomas Brown, Morgan County negro, convicted of criminally assaulting a white woman and sentenced to death, was received by Gov. Miller yesterday from Circuit Judge James E. Horton, of Athens, who presided at trial of the case.

On the day preceding the original date set for the negro's execution, the Governor granted Brown a reprieve until Oct. 12 following receipt of a telegram signed by Judge Horton and Sheriff A. W. Davis, of Morgan County, asking that he stay for 30 days the carrying out of the death sentence pending the presenting of new evidence. A like request had previously been made by counsel for the condemned.

Following issuance of the reprieve order, the Chief Executive notified Judge Horton, Sheriff Davis, the Circuit Solicitor, and counsel for the defense that a second clemency hearing would be given Brown before himself and members of the State Pardon Board on Oct. 2. He requested that the new evidence be presented at that time, and asked that the judge, sheriff, and solicitor forward as soon as possible, new recommendations. Sheriff Davis replied he had no recommendation to offer.

Yesterday, Judge Horton wrote that while holding court at Cullman he was called on the telephone by Sheriff Davis and asked to join in a request to the Governor for a respite for Brown pending the obtaining of new evidence, and "stating some matters that he had heard." He consented, and the telegram was sent.

At the time of the trial, Judge Horton's letter continued, one of the sheriff's deputies had informed him of hearing reports along the same line as was stated by the sheriff. During the past week, he said, he has on three occasions had negroes from Decatur come to see him, and he has also had a communication from Brown's lawyer. Much he has heard, the judge's letter then says, has been hearsay and rumor. He has found some of the parties claiming to know real material facts, he adds, but on his suggestion that affidavits be made, he found the negroes were not only unwilling to do so, but did not want it known they had seen him. The defense attorney has written him, he stated, as to an important witness, but said he was unable to obtain an affidavit.

"The tendency of all the information I have received," his letter concludes, "both from whites and negroes, causes me to be of the opinion that the negro's sentence should be commuted to life imprisonment." No indication as to the nature of the information is given.

Though Brown was identified by the woman who was the victim of the attack, he stoutly denies his guilt, and claims he was elsewhere at the time the crime was committed.

Alabama

Lynchings-1934
Legal Punishment for Rape.

4693 4693

Scottsboro Mothers, Still Uncowed In Struggle, Fight for Their Boys

The story of the toilworn lives of the five mothers of the Scottsboro boys who are now in New York, and who will go to Washington on Mothers' Day, May 13, to demand of the president that their innocent boys, for three years in the shadow of the electric chair, be freed, is continued today in the interview [illegible] Otto Hall, below.

Daily Worker

A mass send-off for the Scottsboro mothers will be held under the auspices of the International Labor Defense in St. Nicholas Arena, Friday night, May 11.

5-7-34

By OTTO HALL

New York

Mother Powell was born in Sparta, Ga., and was one of a family of ten. Her family, also, were sharecroppers, and she has worked ever since she was old enough to remember. When she was a very litle girl, hardly big enough to put her hand on top of a table, she was sent to the "big house" to help in the kitchen. She was so small she had to stand on a box to wipe dishes and iron clothes. A few years later, she was sent to the fields because there were other little children to take her place in the kitchen. At fourteen she plowed with two mules. This was a plenty big enough job for a full grown man.

She was married at the age of 13 to a sharecropper on the same plantation. She had "graduated" into a life time school of misery and hard labor. She is the mother of seven children, and is a widow.

Her boy Ozie was only 14 years old when he was arrested. Like the others he had gone away to get work. He had to help take care of his mother and older sister, who was sick. As a result of the hard work she had to do as a child, Mother Powell's health has always been poor.

All Are Fighters

I listened to these mothers tell their story and could feel with them a burning indignation against a vicious system that make beasts of burden out of human beings. These mothers are all fighters. Suffering, oppression and living in one of the champion lynch states in the country has not cowed them in the least.

Mother Patterson, whose son has been condemned to die three times by the lynch courts, said, "I get so filled up when I think about my boy I can hardly hold myself. My health ain't been very good, but I'm going to work in the I. L. D. till the last breath leaves my body. I'm going to make it so that other colored mothers won't have to go through what I went through."

Mother Patterson was born in Elberton, Ga. She also comes from a family of sharecroppers. Her mother died when she was about seven years old, and she went to work in the fields at that age. She married when she was about 18, she thinks, and is the mother of 11 children. Only six of them are living today. She has gone through a lifetime of miserable toil. Often she worked in the fields while carrying her children up to the day they were born. Her husband, Claude Patterson, is like her, an active fighter in the I. L. D. He has a reputation in his community of being absolutely fearless and is known by the "good" white folk as a "biggity nigger."

"My husband, Claude, never did take no foolishness off'n white folks," she told me, proudly, "and Haywood is just like his pa. Ain't afraid of nothing or nobody." She told of the time her husband tried to kill his planter boss, who attempted to cheat him out of his cotton. When the "law" tried to organize a mob to "put this Negro in his place" the planter, fearful of losing a valuable "hand" told the mob not to interfere between him and his "niggrs" because he was able to handle his "niggers" himself.

Patterson was determined to send his children to school and when the planter objected, he moved away with his family to Chattanooga. He told his friends that he was through with ploughing cotton and that even if he only earned a couple of dollars a week in the city he would at least be able to see cash.

In 1931, the year his boy was arrested, he was only making four days a week on his job, and the combined earnings of the whole family was scarcely enough to feed them. Haywood Patterson quit school to go to work because, he told his mother, that he was tired of going to school in overalls.

He said, "I'm big enough to help you and pa out now and I'm going up North where I can make more money." He said, "Put some starch in my overalls Ma, so that I can look clean when I get there."

"That's the last I saw of my boy," said Mother Patterson, "'til I saw him in jail."

All of these mothers, in spite of years of toil and bringing many children into the world, are fine looking women. These are working class women and a comparison between them and triple-chinned-poodle-dog-following women of the parasite class show the ones who are to survive and who are capable of making the world a fit place in which to live.

Mother Williams, the youngest of the Scottsboro mothers, is only 34 years old and looks even younger. She was born in Atlanta, Ga., and was brought to Chattanooga by her parents when a baby. She went to work at the age of 11, quitting school before finishing the third grade. She married at 14, and is the mother of 10 children, seven of whom are living. Her husband died when she was still carrying her youngest baby.

Her boy, Eugene, was only 13 when he was arrested at Scottsboro charged with rape. When he left he told his mother he was going to Pittsburgh where his uncle lived, and that he would soon get work and send her money.

These mothers, in spite of the fact that they have had very little formal education, have plenty of native intelligence. A talk with them blasts the vicious lie spread by Pickens and Walter White of the N.A.A.C.P. that these mothers were ignorant and did not try to bring their children up properly.

According to Du Bois, Schuyler, White, Pickens, Robert Vann of the "Pittsburgh Courier," and others, these mothers are "ignorant and depraved" because they had too much sense to trust the fate of their boys to these agents of the lynchers. Even today, the leaders of the N.A.A.C.P. are conniving with the Southern lynchers to try to force the boys through torture to repudiate the I.L.D. and let them handle their case. Protests by the thousands must go to Deputy Warden Dan Rogers of Jefferson County jail in Birmingham, Governor Miller, President Roosevelt to stop the torture of these boys.

Workers and those sympathetic should know that the families of these mothers can use children's clothes and shoes if these are sent to the District I.L.D. office, 870 Broadway.

SENTIMENTS OF A SCOTTSBORO PRISONER

Tribune

By Daniel S. Herron
(For the Associated Negro Press)

5-17-34

Washington, D.C.

Sitting in a foul and filthy dungeon,
Gazing out through rusty prison bars,
Shut in from the blessings of the sunlight,
Given not a glimpse of moon or stars;

Hearing but the groans of fellow prisoners,
Breathing fetid air and gasses foul;
Trying to suppress the moans and sighings
Rising from the anguish of his soul.

"Is this Southern hospitality,
Southern kindness," or what may I say?
That my brother prisoners and me
Be mistreated in this sordid way.

Uncondemned and by the law found guiltless
Yet of justice cheated, robbed, denied,
Kept as prisoners though we are blameless;
Oh, that hell her mouth would open wide;

Swallow down these fiends, these Godless villians
Who in human form claim to be men;
Into everlasting darkness take them
Never to behold the light again.

Strike them, God, oh, strike them with the lightning,
Fill their souls with agony, like mine,
Take from them the power to think or reason,
Strike them deaf and dumb, God, strike them blind.

For they hate us only for our color,
Just because our skins are black and brown;
Rise, oh, God, in righteous wrath avenge us;
To the depths of hell, God, hurl them down.

And if need be let me die like Sampson,
Who for vengeance sake did beg to die:
Better than this living death and suffering
In the bosom of the earth to lie.

Negroes' Pleas To Be Heard Friday

Advertiser

Following agreement yesterday between opposing attorneys, submission to the Alabama Supreme Court on argument of appeals taken by Clarence Norris and Haywood Patterson, two of the seven negro defendants in the "Scottsboro cases," was set for Friday of the present week.

5-23-34

The appeals are from action of the Morgan Circuit Court, where Norris and Patterson were convicted of criminally assaulting two young white women near Paint Rock in Jackson County in the Spring of 1931, and sentenced to death.

Montgomery, Ala.

Agreement as to the date of submission was between Atty. Gen. Knight who has personally directed prosecution in the Scottsboro cases, and Osmond K. Fraenkel, of New York, attorney for the defense.

Patterson and Norris are now confined at Kilby Prison. Their co-defendants are being held in the Jefferson County Jail, pending their trials in Morgan County.

Money Urgently Needed for Scottsboro Appeal Hearing Friday

DEFENSE HAMPERED

Contributions Should Be Rushed

Daily Worker

NEW YORK.—Funds are urgently needed to carry thru the Scottsboro appeal to the Alabama Supreme Court, which has set this Friday for hearing on the appeal against the lynch death verdicts against Haywood Patterson and Clarence Norris, the International Labor Defense declared yesterday

5-24-34

New York, N.Y.

Preparations for the appeal are being greatly hampered by lack of funds, the defense organization warns. Out of town workers and groups are uged to wire their contributions, while local groups are asked to bring in their contributions today to the National Office of the I. L. D., 80 East 11th Street, Room 430.

The appeal against the savage lynch verdicts will be argued by Osmond Fraenkel and Samuel Leibowitz, well-known New York attorneys, before the Alabama Supreme Court in Montgomery, Ala., this Friday. All organizations are urged ush protest telegrams to the court, to Gov. B. M. Miller, both at Montgomery, Ala., and to President Roosevelt, demanding the immediate, unconditional and safe release of the nine innocent Scottsboro boys.

LAMENT OF A SCOTTSBORO PRISONER

Call
5-25-34
Kansas City, Mo.

Sitting in a foul and filthy dungeon,
Gazing out through rusty prison bars,
Shut in from the blessings of the sunlight,
Given not a glimpse of moon or stars;
Hearing but the groans of fellow prisoners,
Breathing fetid air and gasses foul;
Trying to suppress the moans and sighings
Rising from the anguish of his soul.

Is this "southern hospitality,"
"Southern kindness," or what may I say?
That my brother prisoners and I
Am mistreated in this sordid way.

Uncondemned and by the law found guiltless
Yet of justice cheated, robbed, denied,
Kept as prisoners though we are blameless;
Oh, that Hell her mouth would open wide;

Swallow down these fiends, these Godless villains
Who in human form claim to be men;
Into everlasting darkness take them
Never to behold the light again.

Strike them God, oh, strike them with the lightening,
Fill their souls with agony, like mine,
Take from them the power to think or reason,
Strike them deaf and dumb, God, strike them blind.

For they hate us only for our color,
Just because our skins are black and brown;
Rise, oh God, in righteous wrath avenge us;
To the depths of hell, God, hurl them down.

And if need be let me die like Sampson,
Who for vengeance sake did beg to die;
Better than this living death and suffering
In the bosom of the earth to lie.

—DANIEL S. HERRON.

Appeals Heard For 2 Negroes

Advertiser

I. L. D. Counsel Argues Patterson, Norris Cases Should Be Thrown Out

5-26-34

Montgomery Ala

Appeals of Heywood Patterson and Clarence Norris, two of the seven negro defendants in the so-called "Scottsboro" case, were submitted to the Alabama Supreme Court shortly before 1 p.m. yesterday following arguments by counsel lasting for nearly three hours, in the course of which defense attorneys insisted that indictments in the cases should be quashed because of exclusion of negroes from the jury rolls of Jackson County where the indictments were returned.

Attorneys for the defense also maintained that the names of six negro residents of Jackson County were fraudulently inserted on the county's jury rolls between the time of the first trial of Patterson and Norris at Scottsboro, and their subsequent trials on change of venue at Decatur in Morgan County.

Replying to these arguments presented by Samuel S. Liebowitz and Osmond K. Fraenkel, of New York, retained as counsel in the cases by the International Labor Defense, Atty. Gen. Knight, who has personally directed the prosecution of all of the "Scottsboro" defendants—declared that to hold that the names of negroes were systematically excluded from the jury rolls of Jackson County as had been charged by attorneys for the defendants, the Supreme Court would have to constitute itself as a jury commission for every county in Alabama.

"In my opinion," he said, "this court cannot go behind the discretion of the jury commission in determining the qualifications of those who shall serve as jurors; their moral fitness, character, ability and the reputation they bear in their respective communities." He has not been and is not, he said, concerned with the jury roll of Jackson County or what names appear on it, adding: "The qualifications of jurors must be left to the jury commission's discretion if you expect our system of government to survive."

The appeals taken under consideration by the Supreme Court yesterday, are the second to come before the tribunal in the same cases. On original appeal they were affirmed. Subsequent reviewal by the U. S. Supreme Court, however, resulted in reversals and the ordering of new trials. Both Patterson and Norris were convicted and sentenced to death at Scottsboro for criminally attacking two young white women near there in March, 1931. After new trials were ordered by the nation's highest court and a change of venue obtained to Morgan County, they were again tried. Patterson was convicted a second time, but the verdict was set aside by the trial judge. He was thereafter tried again and for the third time, convicted and sentenced to death. The second trial of Norris followed with the same result.

Following argument contending that the indictments should be quashed because negroes were not permitted to serve on the Grand Jury that return them, and that thereby the rights of the defendants had been violated, contrary to the provisions of the 14th amendment to the Constitution of the United States—the defense introduced in evidence the record containing the Jackson County jury rolls on which it was charged the names of six negroes had been placed by fraud. Someone with a "legal mind" was responsible for the names being so placed there in order to prevent quashing of the indictments, Mr. Liebowitz charged.

Various instances of partiality toward the prosecution by Trial Judge W. W. Callahan was charged by Mr. Fraenkel; these instances consisting of alleged remarks and comment from the bench which, it was claimed, were unnecessary, unprovoked, uncalled for and improper because of the impression made on the jury. It was further charged that the trial judge improperly excluded evidence which the defense sought to introduce, resulting in one instance in error in the charge to the jury.

MONTGOMERY, ALA.
JOURNAL & TIMES
MAY 17 1934

Scottsboro Case May Be Delayed

There is a possibility that arguments in the Scottsboro case on appeal from the Morgan circuit court will not be heard by the Alabama supreme court before its fall term.

Certificates of appeal in the cases of Heywood Paterson and Clarence Norris, the two negroes sentenced to die at the last trial in Decatur, have reached the court, but Gen. R. F. Ligon, supreme court clerk, has written defense counsel that next week will be the last call and unless the records are filed by then the cases will have to be carried over.

Counsel for the negroes is understood to be working on the voluminous records now and has indicated that it will require several more days before they can be completed.

This is the second appeal taken to the Alabama supreme court in the case.

SCOTTSBORO CASES UP AGAIN ON APPEAL

Supreme Court Of Alabama To Hear Arguments By Counsel Today

Advertiser

Appeals will be submitted today on argument by counsel to the Alabama Supreme Court in the cases of Haywood Patterson and Clarence Norris, two of the seven negro defendants in the so-called "Scottsboro" cases. The appeals are from judgments of the Morgan Circuit Court.

5-25-34

Montgomery Ala

All seven of the defendants were convicted in Jackson County and the death sentence imposed on each. On appeal to the Supreme Court of Alabama, that tribunal affirmed the trial court's action. Appeals were then taken to the Supreme Court of the United States which, on reviewal, reversed the Alabama courts, and remanded the cases for new trial.

A change of venue was thereafter obtained, to Morgan County. Patterson was first to be tried. He was convicted and the death sentence imposed. On motion of defense attorneys, however, the trial judge set the verdict aside. Again he was brought to trial, and convicted, was sentenced for the third time to death by electrocution. Clarence Norris was next tried, the trial resulting in his second conviction, and he was for the second time sentenced to pay the extreme penalty.

It is the appeals from these last judgments of conviction, that will be submitted to the Supreme Court, on arguments which will begin at 10 o'clock this morning. Atty. Gen. Thomas E. Knight, Jr., will represent the State. Defense counsel will, it is understood, base their arguments principally upon the contention that negroes were excluded because of their race and color, from the juries that served when Patterson and Norris were convicted in the Morgan Circuit Court.

Records in both cases were filed in the office of the clerk of the Supreme Court yesterday. Each is several inches thick, and comprises many hundreds of pages of printed matter, including all testimony taken at the various trials.

New York Times
MAY 26 1934

SCOTTSBORO APPEAL RAISES JURY ISSUE

Leibowitz Argues Exclusion of Negroes on Panel—Knight Defends Alabama Usage.

Special to THE NEW YORK TIMES.

MONTGOMERY, Ala., May 25.—The Alabama Supreme Court today took under advisement the appeals of Heywood Patterson and Clarence Norris, Negro defendants in the Scottsboro case, from sentences of death for assaulting Victoria Price, a young white woman, on a freight train near Paint Rock, Ala., in 1931.

Samuel Leibowitz of New York, of defense counsel, asked that the convictions be set aside and the indictments quashed on the grounds that Negroes, "solely because of their race and color," were excluded from the jury in Morgan County. He charged that the names of Negroes on the jury roll were "brazen, rank and amateurish forgery."

He also contended that the trial court erred in refusing to permit testimony regarding Victoria Price's whereabouts and activities preceding the freight train journey, and pointed to alleged discrepancies in her testimony.

O. K. Fraenkel of New York and George W. Chamlee also appeared for the Negroes.

Thomas E. Knight Jr., Attorney General, replied that he was not before the court to say whether names were forged on the jury rolls. Selection of jurors, he said, was within the discretion of the jury commissioners as to the moral fitness, character, ability and reputation of jurors.

"If this court, with no evidence showing that Negroes were excluded, holds that systematic exclusion of Negroes took place, then the court is constituting itself the jury commission of every court in Alabama," he said.

Concerning the character of Victoria Price, the Attorney General said:

"The jury decided she was attacked on that freight train and her past acts have no bearing on whether Patterson and Norris committed that act."

Under customary procedure, the court will hold a closed conference, assign one justice to write the opinion and hand down its decision within three weeks to two months following the hearing.

LAWYERS SEEK NEGRO CLIENTS

Post

Competition Keen Among New Yorkers For Scottsboro Case

10-13-34

By United Press.

MONTGOMERY, Oct. 13.—The Scottsboro attack case is rapidly becoming a medley of attorneys.

Heywood Patterson and Clarence Norris, negro defendants who are appealing death sentences to the U. S. supreme court made affidavits employing Samuel S. Leibowitz as their attorney last week.

But the state supreme court recognizes Osmopd K. Fraenkel, New York, and sent him the official copy of the state supreme court's opinion affirming the lower court's conviction.

Birmingham, Ala.

Fraenkel and Leibowitz argued the case jointly before the state court, but later disagreed.

G. H. Chamblee, Chattanooga, Sol H. Gohn, New York, and Eli Schriffman, New York, also are said to be angling for the case.

Raymond J. Riley and John Capozucci, still two more New York attorneys, visited Patterson and Norris in Kilby prison as associates of Leibowitz.

Riley said Cohn and Schriffman, under the aliases of "Sol Kone" and "Daniel Swift" are the two men jailed in Huntsville on charges of attempting to bribe Victoria Price to alter her testimony to favor the negroes.

Meanwhile, Patterson and Norris are standing pat on Leibowitz, and wrote an open letter to all the others saying: "I do not want you as my lawyer and do not call to see me any more. Turn over all my papers to Mr. Leibowitz."

Lynchings- 1934
Legal Punishment for Rape

Alabama.

4694

Herndon, One of First Scottsboro Defenders, Girds Now for Biggest Fight to Save the Nine

Daily Worker

8-18-34

He Organized First City Conference on Boys' Frame-up

New York, N.Y.

By ELIZABETH LAWSON

NEW YORK. — Angelo Herndon was one of the first defenders of the Scottsboro boys. From that historic day in 1931 when a certain train stopped at Paint Rock, Ala., and nine young black boys stepped off into the arms of a bloodthirsty lynch-crowd, the current of Herndon's life has been one with the fight to free them. Even in the black hole of Fulton Tower, Herndon did what he could towards the Scottsboro fight. His thoughts, his heart, and his whole working-class soul has been in that battle.

For the last few days Angelo Herndon has rested his tortured body and mind at a quiet farm in upper New York. He has accepted one of the hundreds of invitations that had come to him from friends and sympathizers. In these hills, he breathed once more the fresh air that had been denied him for 19 months; he slept in a clean bed instead of on a filthy hay mattress; he ate food that was wholesome after two years of poisonous fare.

Thinks Always of Scottsboro

But even in this place Herndon could not forget. His mind ran on the class fight, on the struggle of the Scottsboro boys, on the fate of the prisoners of the general strike in California. Sitting under the trees outside the old farm-house, he talked about it—and constantly his talk recurred to the past struggles for the Scottsboro boys, the perspectives of the fight yet to be waged, and his passionate hope and desire for their release.

The first word of the Scottsboro case came to Herndon when he was an organizer of the marine workers in New Orleans.

"One morning," he said, "I picked up the capitalist paper and saw that 'nine black brutes had raped two little girls.' That was the way the paper put it. There was a dock strike on at the time in New Orleans—7,000 Negro and white longshoremen out against a slashing wage cut. The New Orleans bosses would have been glad to see this issue—the Scottsboro case—used as a method of whipping up hatred of white and Negro longshoremen against one another. They would have found it just that much easier to break the strike!

Recognized Frame-Up

"I knew the South and the American bosses well enough to know at once that what we had to do with here was a vicious frame-up. In Birmingham, the district center, and in the Communist Party center in New York, steps were being taken to fight this case. But even before I heard from them, I got in touch with the comrades in Birmingham about it.

"I got to work at once organizing committees among the workers of New Orleans. We visited clubs, unions, churches to get support for the Scottsboro boys. We asked these groups to elect delegates and we held a city-wide conference. I believe that this New Orleans conference was the first city conference for the Scottsboro boys held in the United States.

"On May 31, 1931, I went as a delegate to the first All-Southern Scottsboro Conference, held in Chattanooga, Tenn. There were three delegates from New Orleans. I was one of them, having been elected by the Trade Union Unity League. The other two fellows were white.

"The hall in Chattanooga was surrounded by gunmen and police, but we held that conference just the same. The bosses and dicks were boiling mad because we had Negro and white meeting together, sitting together — and saying very plainly that the whole Scottsboro case was a rotten frame-up. I spoke at that conference.

Fought Misleaders

"While I was in Chattanooga that trip, I went to a meeting in a Negro church, addressed by William Pickens. Pickens made an attack on the International Labor Defense. He said we shouldn't get the governor and the courts mad — we should try to be nice to them. He said: 'You people don't know how to fight. Give your money to me and to lawyers and we'll take care of this.' Then he attacked the mothers of the Scottsboro boys as being a lot of ignorant fools.

"Well, I was so mad I hardly knew what I was doing. I spoke up and said that the Scottsboro boys would never get out of prison until all the workers got together and brought terrific pressure to bear on the lynchers. I said: 'We've been polite to the lynchers entirely too long. As long as we O.K. what they do, as long as we pat them on the back, as long as we crawl to them and assure them we have no desire to change their institutions—just so long we'll be slaves.'

"After that I had a lot of experience—in Chattanooga, Birmingham and Atlanta—with white and Negro misleaders who try to keep us from putting up a real fight for the boys. What these misleaders want is a nice quiet time so they can go on picking our pockets.

"I followed the Scottsboro case the best way I could while I was in jail. Every time I got a paper—and that wasn't often—I looked eagerly for news of the Scottsboro boys. Every time the jailers let someone into the jail, I asked them about the Scottsboro boys. I was uplifted, brimming with joy over the splendid fight we made in Decatur. I could hardly contain myself when I saw how the workers were making the Scottsboro case a battering-ram against Jim-Crowism and oppression."

"Were you surprised at the lynch decision after the first Decatur trial?" I asked Herndon.

"Not a bit!" he answered emphatically. "Yes, I know we proved complete innocence. We showed that the boys didn't have a thing to do with the girls. We piled up evidence that would have staggered an impartial court. Only, of course, there isn't any such thing as an impartial court. Evidence means very little—it's useful only to show the frame-up, to convince people what kind of case this is. But all the evidence in the world wouldn't mean anything to the lynchers. What counts is the protests, the meetings, the resolutions, the telegrams, the marches and demonstrations. I saw that in the Scottsboro case, and I saw it very clearly in my own case."

"What do you think of the chance of getting the Scottsboro boys free?" someone asked.

"We've got to get them free—there's no question about it," Herndon said at once. "But how? The last U. S. Supreme Court decision in the Scottsboro case raised illusions with some people that the Supreme Court is fair on these matters, and will give a verdict of innocence. As a matter of fact, when you look carefully at the Supreme Court decision in this case, you see how little faith we can place in that court. They avoided all the questions of principle. They had to reverse the verdict because the protests were deafening, but they refused to say a word about the right of Negroes to serve on juries; they didn't say anything about the lynch-spirit that pervaded the courtroom, and the lynch-crowds in and around it.

"From now on we can expect the U. S. Supreme Court and all the other courts to be even more vicious in their decisions. We can expect the misleaders—of the type of Pickens, and the others we had to deal with—to be busier than ever. And we've got to answer with increased activity. I got out of jail because the workers organized, and demonstarted, and protested, and got together money, and raised hell generally. Well, the Scottsboro boys will get out that way—and no other way!

"I'm glad to be going on a tour for the Scottsboro boys now. This summer and fall have got to see $15,000 raised for the Scottsboro-Herndon defense, and a real deluge, a flood of protests to the Supreme Court and to the Alabama officials. The appeal to the Supreme Court comes up soon—and there will have to be more hell-raising if we expect a favorable decision."

SCOTTSBORO CASE IS A RALLYING CRY FOR UNITED ACTION

By CYRIL BRIGGS

The Socialist Party is seeking the support of Negro voters, in the present election campaign on the claim that a vote for the Socialist candidates is a vote for "Socialism," and thus for Negro emancipation.

Are the Socialist leaders sincere when they speak of Negro emancipation? Is there a test to which their professions can be subjected? There is. That test lies in contrasting their promises with their deeds, their words with their actions.

To take only one example: the Scottsboro Case affords an excellent testing ground by which to measure the sincerity of all the professed friends of the Negro people. Scottsboro is a struggle between two opposing classes: in one camp are the friends of Negro liberation; in the other are the advocates and sly supporters of lynching, persecution and national oppression of the Negro people. Let us see in which of these two camps are the Socialist leaders.

Forward "Wipes Out" Class Divisions

In its issue of Friday, Oct. 12 the Socialist "Jewish Forward," gloating over the apparent success of the plot engineered by Samuel S. Leibowitz and Harlem Negro misleaders to oust the International Labor Defense from the case attacks the I. L. D. policy of mobilizing and uniting the toiling masses, black and white, to the defense of the boys. It declares of the I. L. D. conduct of the Scottsboro defense:

"All the grudges that exist between the Negro race and the white people, all the conflicts between the working class and the capitalists, between man and God, between life and death—everything was dragged into the Scottsboro case."

Thus, according to the Forwar'd, the natural resentment of the oppressed Negro masses against the white ruling class oppressors, their struggles against jim-crowism, lynching, etc., are mere grudges. And, at that, grudges between the Negro people and the whole white population! The exploited white toilers, the natural allies of the oppressed Negro masses, are lumped together with the capitalists by the Socialist paper in a common front against the Negro people.

Substitutes "Race War" For Class Struggle

From this position flows the line, repeatedly given expression by the Socialist leaders, that the arising class and national struggles in the South are leading to a "race war" between the Negroes and the whole white population; that the fight for Negro liberation is unconnected with the struggles of the working class for social emancipation, for the social revolution which will wipe out all forms of exploitation and oppression. From this follows the conclusion that the white workers, themselves exploited by the ruling class, should not support the strugges of the Negro people against that ruling class.

Indeed, the inference may properly be drawn that the Socialist leaders seek to line up the white toilers in support of the lynch rulers' attempts to drown the Negro liberation struggle in blood. That this inference is by no means far-fetched is shown by the shameful record of the Belgian Socialists of support and actual participation, through their "labor" banks, etc., in the exploitation of the Negro masses of the Belgian Congo; by the support of the French Socialists to their predatory bourgeoisie in its colonial wars against the African masses (Morocco, etc.), and in the use of troops and bombing planes by the British Labor Governments to crush the struggles of the masses of Nigeria, West Africa; of India, Egypt, etc.

Attacks Fighters For Boys; Not Lynchers

The Socialist leaders center their attacks not on the lynch rulers of Alabama and their courts, which are seeking to burn the innocent Scottsboro boys in the electric chair on Dec. 7, but on the revolutionary forces leading the world-wide mass fight for the lives and freedom of the boys. Thus, the Forward declares:

"The Communists are still the most deadly enemies of the Scottsboro case."

We Communists have always declared that the roots of the "rape" frame-up of the Scottsboro boys are deeply imbedded in the conditions of national oppression and persecution of the Negro people. We maintain that no effective fight can be waged for the lives of the boys that does not take this into account. We maintain that to be effective, the fight for the boys must of necessity be a fight against oppression and plundering of the Negro people, against the conditions that breed "rape" frame-ups and mob and legal lynchings of Negro toilers.

Scottsboro a Rallying Cry for Unity

Scottsboro is not an isolated case of Negro persecution. It is not a mere miscarriage of justice as the reformists would have us believe. Scottsboro is both a symbol of the persecution of the Negro people, and a rallying cry for united action by the Negro masses and all real friends of the Negro people in a relentless struggle for the lives and freedom of the boys, for complete equality of the Negro people, for the right of the brutally exploited Negro majorities in the "Black Belt" to govern those territories in which they constitute a majority of the population. In other words, for the smashing of the whole monstrous system of Negro oppression and accompanying degradation of the Southern white toilers; for equality everywhere for the Negro people and for self-determination for the Negro people in the "Black Belt" territories.

This has been the firm position of the Communists from the very first day of the Scottsboro case. This is the position of the Negro and white fighters for the Scottsboro boys. The history of the Scottsboro case, proving that mere proof of innocence of Negro victims of capitalist justice is of no avail in the lynch courts, fully confirm the correctness of this position.

Reformists and the "Good Relations" Bunk

The Socialist leaders, together with other reformists, white and Negro, attack this position. So do the lynch rulers, but their attacks frankly express their determination to maintain their oppressive and plundering rule of the Negro people. The reformists, however, pretend that the Communist position endangers the supposed "good relations" which they claim exist between the lynch lords and their Negro victims. They claim, moreover, that the Communist position "endangers" the lives of the boys.

They conveniently ignore the fact that the boys were sentenced to death before the Communist Party began to rally the masses to their defense, before the I. L. D. entered the case. They put forward the traitorous line of confining the defense of the boys within the bounds of bourgeois legality, within the confines of the very lynch courts which pronounced the death verdicts.

Mass Fight Rips Lid Off Negro Oppression

They charge the Communists with making propaganda out of the case. We Communists plead guilty to the charge of making the Scottsboro frame-up a means of exposing the horrible persecution of the Negro people. Scottsboro demonstrations, tours of the mothers (against which the Forward rages), have carried the case around the world, rousing millions of toilers, white and black, to a realization of the brutal oppression of the Negro people, to the fight for the lives of the boys and for Negro liberation. The Scottsboro case has become a part of every important struggle of the workers in this country.

The fight for the Scottsboro boys and for Negro emancipation is an integral part of the election campaigns of the Communist Party which, in one of the seven major demands of its election platform demands the unconditional and safe release of the boys, and calls upon the toiling masses to fight "against jim-crowism and lynching, for equal rights for the Negroes and self-determination of the Black Belt, for the Negro Bill of Rights.

Scottsboro an Election Issue

We Communists leave it to the masses, white and Negro, to decide on the basis of the evidence who are the fighters for the Scottsboro boys and the Negro people and for the interests of the whole working class, and who are the betrayers of both the white workers and the Negro people. We call upon all fighters for Negro freedom and working class emancipation to vote as they fight, under the guidance of their Communist Party, and for the election of its candidates.

ISSUES ARE PUT BEFORE U.S. COURT

Funds Urgently Needed To Meet the Costs of Defense Action

11-19-34

Petition for a writ of certiorari, and the supporting legal brief, in the case of Clarence Norris, Scottsboro boy now under sentence of death, was filed with the United States Supreme Court Saturday by Osmond K. Fraenkel, attorney retained by the International Labor Defense for the Scottsboro appeals.

The petition and brief in the case of Haywood Patterson will be filed within the next few days, the I. L. D. announced.

This legal move definitely puts the Scottsboro case before the U. S. Supreme Court, which has now to decide whether it will hear the appeal. The state officials of Alabama have twenty days in which to file an answer to the brief, after which decision will have to be made by the U. S. Supreme Court.

Other Points in Patterson Appeal

The filing of the Norris petition was decided upon in order to bring the case formally before the court as quickly as possible. The Patterson petition and brief, which will raise more constitutional questions, because of the trickery of Judge Callahan, who worked with Attorney-General Thomas E. Knight, Jr., in an attempt to rob Patterson of his appeal rights, and because of Callahan's failure to inform the jury in the Patterson case that it was possible for them to bring in a verdict of "not guilty," until reminded by defense counsel, who in doing so made possible the raising of this question in the higher court, will take a few days longer to complete, the I.L.D. said.

Both petitions and writs are being prepared by Mr. Fraenkel with the assistance of Walter H. Pollak, famous constitutional attorney who prepared the papers in the successful Supreme Court appeal in 1932.

I. L. D. Wins Stay of Execution

With the stay of execution forced by the I.L.D. from the Alabama State Supreme Court last Friday, for Patterson and Norris, the legal time for filing these briefs does not expire until Jan. 5. The execution was stayed upon application by Mr. Fraenkel from Dec. 7 to Feb. 8 ,1935.

The main constitutional question raised in the brief is the exclusion of Negroes from the grand and petit juries which indicted and convicted the Scottsboro boys. Many other points regarding the conditions and conduct of the trial are raised in the brief.

The obtaining of the stay of execution, and filing of the Norris brief by the I.L.D. attorneys, is the best answer to the false contentions of Samuel S. Leibowitz, who in an attempt to damage the Scottsboro defense has represented himself as attorney for the Scottsboro boys.

Leibowitz Disruption Continues

The latest announcement of Mr. Leibowitz, made Friday in the "Amsterdam News," published by William H. Davis, which has become his unofficial organ, was that he would apply on Monday, four days later, for a stay of execution for the boys. Even before the paper was off the press, the I.L.D. had not only applied for, but obtained such a stay.

In the same paper Leibowitz, who although he wanted to conduct this appeal was only admitted to the bar of the U. S. Supreme Court last week, has never practiced before that court and is entirely unfitted to make such an appeal for which a trained constitutional lawyer is necessary, published a form letter from the clerk of the U. S. Supreme Court acknowledging receipt of papers which he alleged were retainers from Patterson and Norris.

The conscious attempt by Leibowitz to confuse the masses and disrupt the Scottsboro defense was further shown in the statement made in the "Amsterdam News" that this letter proves that Leibowitz had been accepted by the U. S. Supreme Court as "sole representative" of Clarence Norris and Haywood Patterson. This is false, as the letter was merely a formal receipt such as would be sent to anyone who mailed a document of any sort to the court.

Must Increase Mass Pressure

The necessity for increase in mass action everywhere to force the U. S. Supreme Court to grant the application for review of the case, and to reverse the lynch-veridcts against Haywood Patterson and Clarence Norris was stressed by the I.L.D.

In the first appeal to this court in 1932 it was pointed out 150,000 post-cards demanding reversal of the lynch-convictions against seven of the Scottsboro boys were mailed, which had an important effect in obtaining a favorable decision.

Preparations must be intensified immediately to make the week of Nov. 26 to Dec. 2, which has been designated national Scottsboro week, one of the greatest national demonstrations of protests against the Scottsboro lynch-verdicts, and against the oppression and exploitation of the Negro people and for their liberation, that has ever been seen in this country.

Funds Urgently Needed

Funds to pay for the huge printing costs involved in the appeals for the expenses in connection with the legal steps taken, for the modest attorneys' fees involved, and for the equally important steps to be taken in connection with the mass campaign are urgently needed, the I.L.D. pointed out.

Rush funds by telegraph, air-mail and special delivery to the International Labor Defense, national office, room 610, 80 East 11th Street, New York City.

Bronx Conference Saturday

All Bronx organizations, societies and churches have been invited to elect delegates to a Bronx County Scottsboro Conference next Saturday afternoon, Nov. 24, at the Epworth Church, 834 Morris Avenue, Bronx. The conference is called to organize all elements in the Bronx, which are in sympathy with the movement to free the Scottsboro boys; to work with similar conferences throughout the nation to defeat the lynch death verdicts against the boys.

Demonstration in Detroit

(Special to the Daily Worker)

DETROIT, Mich., Nov. 18.—More than 1,000 Negro and white workers, in an enthusiastic demonstration in the heart of the Negro section Friday night, demanded the immediate release of the nine innocent Scottsboro boys. The demonstration, organized by the International Labor Defense and the League of Struggle for Negro Rights, was held on Brewster Street, between Hastings and Rivard, the entire street being roped off.

Ben Davis of New York, editor of the Negro Liberator, who was the main speaker, was given a stormy ovation. Davis exposed the role of the renegade attorney, Samuel Leibowitz, and of the Negro misleaders who are aiding him, and called for an intensified united struggle to win the release of the Scottsboro boys.

Other speakers were Tony Gerlach, district secretary of the I. L. D.; Frank Sykes, leader of the struggles of the Negro masses of Detroit; Mary Powell of Birmingham; Mattie Henderson, Negro woman worker; William Weinstone, secretary of the Michigan District of the Communist Party; Joe Roberts, district organizer of the Young Communist League, and Phil Raymond, national secretary of the Auto Workers' Union. George Frant, of the L. S. N. R., acted as chairman. Protest resolutions were adopted, demanding the release of the Scottsboro boys, Angelo Herndon, Tom Mooney and of Ernst Thaelmann, imprisoned leader of the German working class.

A resolution of greetings was sent to Tom Mooney.

The demonstration was followed by a banquet in the Negro Y.W.C.A.

Alabama

4695

Lynchings-1934
Legal Punishment for Rape.

PARENTS OF YOUTHS SIGN NOTED COUNSEL TO CONDUCT TRIALS

Amsterdam News

10-13-34

Both Patterson and Norris Order Reds to Leave Case

FUND RAISING HIT

Full Responsibility in Case Is Accepted by Famed Attorney

By T. R. POSTON.

From the death cell in Kilby prison, Montgomery, where they are awaiting execution in one of the most notorious frameups in history, Haywood Patterson and Clarence Norris, thrice condemned Scottsboro defendants, have taken the initiative in their own defense and have ousted the International Labor Defense and the Communist Party from all connection with the case.

At the same time the youths, their parents and the mother of Andy and Roy Wright, two more of the defendants, engaged Samuel S. Leibowitz, brilliant New York trial attorney, who last week split with the I. L. D., as sole representative of the boys in their appeals to the United States Supreme Court and in their retrials in the State of Alabama.

This significant change in the defense of the youths, whose conviction on a charge of attacking Victoria Price, white woman hobo, was upheld last week for the second time by the Alabama Supreme Court, was made public Wednesday by Attorney Leibowitz at his office at 225 Broadway.

New York

The lawyer showed The Amsterdam News the originals of letters and affidavits signed last week by both Patterson and Norris and by Mrs. Ada Wright and Claude and Janie Patterson, the condemned youth's parents, ousting the I. L. D. and the Communists from the case and engaging Mr. Leibowitz as sole defense counsel. At the same time, Attorney Leibowitz exhibited scores of letters from all parts of the country begging him to reconsider his previous decision to leave the case because of the I. L. D. and Communist tactics. Among these was a petition from the Interdenominational Preachers' Meeting of New York and Vicinity.

Attorney Leibowitz threatened last week to withdraw from the case following the arrest in Alabama and Tennessee of three white men, two of them I. L. D. representatives, on charges of attempting to bribe Victoria Price to change her testimony against the Scottsboro boys. The arrested men were J. W. Pearson of Birmingham and Daniel Swift and Sol Kone of New York. In threatening to withdraw from the case, Leibowitz bitterly scored the Communists and accused the I. L. D. of hampering the defense by "mysterious moves behind the scenes."

Coup Revealed.

10-13-34

But in disclosing the change in the defense Wednesday, the famed criminal attorney revealed that at no time had he contemplated deserting the case, which he had previously announced that he would "fight until Hell froze over." At the same time, he revealed a coup in securing full charge of the defense, which is as dramatic as the circumstances of the case itself.

New York

The coup was quietly and swiftly executed by Attorney Leibowitz, two representatives of his office, four Harlem ministers and William H. Davis, general manager of The Amsterdam News, while the I. L. D. and the Communists were announcing last week that Leibowitz had been "fired" from the case because of differences over policy.

Immediately following the arrest of the three white men in the South, Attorney Leibowitz told Mr. Davis of his decision to withdraw from the case unless the Communists were barred from all future activity. The next day, on October 2, the defense attorney held a conference with Mr. Davis and the four Harlem ministers, the Rev. Lorenzo H. King of St. Mark's M. E. Church, the Rev. Richard Manuel Bolden of First Emanuel Church, the Rev. J. W. Brown of Mother A. M. E. Zion and the Rev. A. C. Garner of Grace Congregational Church.

Ordered Communist Out.

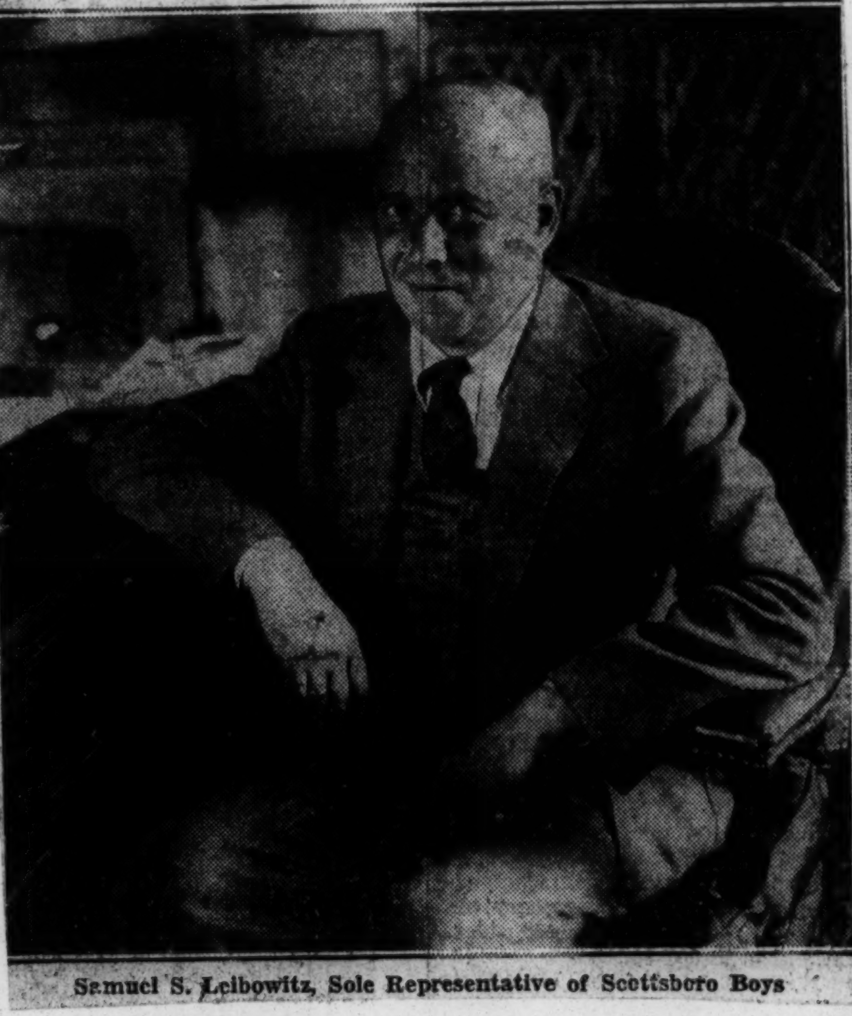
Prior to this conference, Attorney Leibowitz revealed, he summoned Joseph R. Brodsky, chief counsel of the I. L. D., to his office and demanded that the Communists be thrown out of the case. When Brodsky not only refused to meet the demand, but threatened to remove Leibowitz himself from the defense, the lawyers say that he told the I. L. D. lawyer that the I. L. D. and the Communists could "either get out of the case or be kicked out."

That night, following the conference, the attorney and the ministers swung into action. Less than three hours after a decision had been reached, John Terry, Mr. Leibowitz's secretary, and Attorney Raymond J. Riley, an associate, took a plane for Montgomery, Ala., to secure the consent of Patterson and Norris to a change of defense counsel. They also visited the prison in Birmingham where the other seven defendants are confined and revealed the plan to them. The youths are said to have agreed to the change, too.

Early the next morning, on October 3, the Rev. Mr. King and the Rev. Mr. Bolden boarded a train for Chattanooga to secure the consent and affidavits of the parents. The two groups met later in the South and co-operated in their work. They returned to New York last Saturday night with the necessary documents.

In the affidavit signed by Mrs. Wright, mother of two of the boys, and by Claude and Janie Patterson, parents of Haywood, the I. L. D. and its representatives are instructed to "take no further steps in either of the cases, trials or appeals in any court whatsoever" and "to turn over immediately any and all papers in these matters to Samuel S. Leibowitz, attorney, who is the only attorney now representing our sons, namely, Haywood Patterson, Roy Wright and Andy Wright."

In Full Charge



Samuel S. Leibowitz, Sole Representative of Scottsboro Boys

Stops I. L. D. Fund-Raising.

The affidavit, addressed to the "I. L. D., Joseph R. Brodsky, Walter H. Pollak, Elias M. Schwartzbart, Carl S. Stern, All Communistic Parties, Sol Kone, Dan Swift, Osmond Frankel, Irving Schwab," also states:

"We also wish that all your agents, servants, representatives and employees stop taking any actions or steps with reference to these cases and under no circumstances are you to raise any funds, moneys or finances on the representation that you are the attorneys or representatives of our sons above named in the Alabama case or the case pending, or the case which will be pending in the United States Supreme Court." The document is dated October 5.

The parents also signed a power of attorney to Mr. Leibowitz, giving him sole right to "prosecute, handle, proceed with, and take all necessary steps" with the appeals and handling of the cases. Similar documents were signed by Haywood Patterson and Norris.

Norris wrote Mr. Brodsky that "I don't want you or anyone connected with you to handle my case on appeal. I wish Mr. Samuel S. Leibowitz to be my lawyer and I am satisfied for him to be the boss."

Patterson wrote to "Brodsky, I. L. D., Communistic parties, Osmond K. Frankel, Sol H. Kone, G. W. Chamlee, Eli Schriffman and all others" that "I do not want you or any of you as my lawyer in the case of the State of Alabama against me and do not care to see any more. Turn over to Samuel S. Leibowitz all my papers both trials and appeal at once."

To Mr. Leibowitz Norris wrote: "You have did great work for me in the past and I have faith that you wil ldo greater work in my behalf in the future to come. Mr. Leibowitz, all of my faith is in you and I do ardently hope that you keep in good health, where you can fight this mighty struggle to the last ditch. With your fighting blood I am sure that at the end I will walk out from behind these steel bars a free man."

Patterson wrote: "I have no further interest nor confidence in the

International Labor Defense nor any of its attorneys, as you may know they are making things worse for me instead of making it better and I am sure happy to say that I have relieved my responsibilities and affairs of this case all over to you personally, as I have absolute and uttermost confidence in you that you will do the things that are just and righteous in this case and soon have me freed and out there with you. . . ."

Trial Papers Sought.

Copies of the letters and affidavits making the change of defense were mailed to Mr. Brodsky Wednesday by Mr. Leibowitz with a request that all papers relating to the case be turned over immediately so that the new defense attorney might immediately prepare his appeal of the cases to the United States Supreme Court. Should the I. L. D. refuse to release the papers, the attorney stated that he would have a new set prepared from the records.

Asked how the new defense would be financed, Attorney Leibowitz stated that he anticipated no difficulty on that score. "It has never been and will never be necessary to raise hundreds of thousands of dollars to see that these boys are given justice," he said, "I am putting my faith in the churches, the better people of the country and the thousands of interested persons who are anxious to see that these boys receive a fair trial and freedom—instead of seeing them shackled to the Communist chariot.

"My own services will not cost the defense one cent and the only necessary expenses will be those for printing and clerical services. For instance, it will take less than $6,000 to carry this case through the United States Supreme Court." (The I. L. D. had appealed for $30,000 to carry the cases of the Scottsboro boys and Angelo Herndon to that tribunal.)

In commenting on the ousting of the Communists, Mr. Leibowitz said: "The case has been given a good dose of castor oil. You may rest assured that the patient is already well on the way to recovery."

Never Intended to Withdraw.

The lawyer revealed that he had never intended to withdraw from the case. "When I took this case, I stated that I would hurl it back in the face of Alabama until they would rue the day that they ever heard the word 'Scottsboro.' I said that I would fight that frameup until the boys were free or until Hell froze over. That is what I said, and that is what I'll do. In threatening to withdraw, I gave the Communists a chance to get out of the case decently. They refused, so I had to kick them out. You may tell the world that I am in this case to stay."

In the meanwhile, plans were being completed yesterday for the launching of a national drive by the ministers and all interested bodies for a new Scottsboro fund. It is expected that a monster mass meeting will be sponsored in Harlem in the near future for the launching of this drive. Mr. Leibowitz is expected to be the principal speaker. Attorney G. W. Chamlee of Chattanooga, who has served for the defense for several years, may also come to New York to address the meeting. The raising of the $6,000 for the U. S. Supreme Court appeal will be the immediate objective of the body.

Arrested in 1931.

The nine Scottsboro boys, Haywood Patterson, Clarence Norris, Olin Montgomery, Roy and Andy Wright, Charles Weems, William Robertson, Ozie Powell and Eugene Williams, were pulled from a freight train at Paint Rock, Ala., on March 25, 1931, by officers who had heard of a fight between Negroes and whites on the train.

Among the whites found on the train were Victoria Price and Ruby Bates, two women hoboes. Both girls charged that they had been raped by the nine Negro youths. The boys were tried in a mob-dominated courtroom at Scottsboro, the county seat, and found guilty. Eight of them were condemned to death, the jury being unable to agree on the penalty for 12-year-old Roy Wright.

The International Labor Defense entered the case and carried it through the Alabama Supreme Court, which upheld the death sentences of seven of the youths, but ruled that the younger Wright brother and Eugene Williams, who was only 13 years old, be turned over to the juvenile courts for trial.

The cases were then carried to the United States Court, which reversed the convictions of all of the defendants and demanded a retrial. The International Labor Defense then secured the services of Attorney Liebowitz for the first retrial of Patterson, which was held on a change of venue in Decatur, Ala., early in 1933. Attorney Leibowitz gave his services free and took the case.

Despite what is regarded as the most perfect presentation of a criminal case in American jurisprudence, and the surprise appearance of Ruby Bates as a defense witness, who denied that the attacks took place, Haywood Patterson, the first of the defendants to be retried, was convicted of the charge the second time by an all white jury on Palm Sunday of last year and sentenced again to death. Judge James E. Horton, who presided over the second trial, reversed the conviction, however.

Patterson was put on trial on the same charge a third time last November, convicted and doomed a third time, despite the brilliant defense of Attorney Leibowitz. Norris was tried the second time and likewise convicted and doomed. The Alabama Supreme Court upheld both convictions and last week denied a plea for rehearing before that body.

Attorney Leibowitz will argue the appeals before the United States Supreme Court on the grounds that the youths were denied their constitutional rights when Negroes were denied the right to sit on the Jackson county jury which indicted them. This premise was established at both Decatur trials. At the second trial there Mr. Leibowitz proved through a handwriting expert that a clumsy attempt had been made to forge the names of a few Negroes on the Jackson county jury rolls.

Repeated efforts on the part of The Amsterdam News to contact Mr. Brodsky for an official I. L. D. statement on the change in the defense had met with no success yesterday. It is understood, however, that the I. L. D. will make an attempt to change the minds of the defendants and again secure the case for the organization.

Should the I. L. D. fail to co-operate in turning over the papers for the new defense, and should any effort be made to sabotage the efforts of Mr. Leibowitz, an investigation may be asked of the federal and local district attorneys into the expenditure of the large fund which has been raised in connection with the case, it was revealed yesterday.

This angle of the defense was revealed by William H. Davis, publisher of The Amsterdam News, who stated that this matter was being considered by the new committee which is planning its fund drive. It is not believed that this action will be taken unless developments make it imperative, Mr. Davis stated.

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3 Bound Over In Scottsboro Case

Advertiser

Men Accused Of Bribing Victoria Price Held To Huntsville Grand Jury

11-3-34

Dec.

HUNTSVILLE, ALA., Nov. 2.—(AP)—Three men charged with attempting to "bribe or influence" the State's principal witness in the "Scottsboro case" today were bound over to the Grand Jury under $2,500 bond in a preliminary hearing before Judge W. H. Blanton in Madison Inferior Court.

Judge Blanton held Donald Swift, and Sol Kone, both New York attorneys, and J. W. Peerson, of Birmingham, after Mrs. Victoria Price, principal witness in the "Scottsboro case" had testified that they called at her home at various times during recent months.

Mrs. Price testified that both Swift and Kone had talked to her about buying her life story and photograph and suggested she could make a lot of money out of the case.

Peerson, Mrs. Price testified offered her $500 to "sign a paper" agreeing not to appear in further trials, but after signing she could appear and testify that she had signed it only to get the money.

Solicitor James Pride said this afternoon the case would be submitted to the Madison County Grand Jury when it convenes on Nov. 19, and if the defense was ready, it probably would be set down for hearing the first week in December. Conviction he said was punishable by a sentence of from one to ten years imprisonment.

Mrs. Price, in relating the incidents leading up to Peerson's first visit, said Kone came to her home and asked her mother for her, and that on appearing told her a relative was in front of the postoffice who might be of some help to her.

"I told him," Mrs. Price testified, "to tell him to come to the house, but be sure and come alone.'"

Peerson, she said, arrived in about an hour, introducing himself as Charles Price and remarking, "'Well, it looks like I have found some of my kinfolks.'"

Later, Mrs. Price said Peerson brought up the Scottsboro case and asked what she thought and when she replied she wanted to see the defendants executed, Peerson replied, "bosh! I know nothing is going to happen to them, because I have been talking to those New York fellows.'"

Mrs. Price said Peerson then asked her if she "would sign a paper for $500," and when she refused, the offer later was raised to $1,500.

On cross-examination, she said she had never read the paper but Peerson told her it was an affidavit that she would "not appear in further trials in the case," but he also told her she could go before a jury and testify that she had signed it to get the money.

Advertiser

She described the paper on cross-examination as typewritten and that she "could have read it if I had wanted to."

11-3-34

Mrs. Price then described another visit of Peerson's and reaching an agreement to accompany him to Nashville to sign an affidavit and receive $1,500.

The following day, by agreement with officers, she said she started, accompanied by Peerson and Jack Tiller, her bodyguard, for Nashville, but police stopped them five miles out of the city and arrested Peerson.

Fred Robinson, Morgan County deputy, was called to testify that Swift and Kone were in Decatur last Fall.

Kone and Swift were arrested in Nashville the following day, Sept. 30, on complaint of Alabama authorities. They were brought here while attorneys sought to obtain a writ of habeas corpus in their behalf, after Gov. Hill McAlister had granted a requisition for them.

In the proceedings today, Kone and Swift were represented by Douglas Taylor, local attorney, and Henry Sheiner of New York, with M. U. Griffin, appearing for Peerson.

The Rev. John J. Milford, pastor of the First Baptist Church here, and G. R. McKinley, of Birmingham, were called as character witnesses for Peerson.

Patterson, Norris Get 60-Day Stay

Advertiser

11-17-34

A stay of execution until Feb. 8, 1935 of the death sentences of Heywood Patterson and Clarence Norris, two of the seven negro Scottsboro case defendants, was granted yesterday by the Alabama Supreme Court, on petition of O. K. Frankel of New York retained by the International Labor Defense as counsel for the condemned negroes to look after their pending appeals before the Supreme Court of the United States. Patterson and Norris were to have gone to their death in the electric chair at Kilby Prison on Dec. 7.

The request for stay of execution was submitted both by wire and by letter, by the New York attorney, who said he would be unable to complete preparation of the certiorari application through which he hopes to have the U. S. Supreme Court review the two cases, and submit it soon enough to obtain a decision by that tribunal prior to Dec. 7, and asked for more time. Patterson and Norris are under sentence of death for criminally assaulting Mrs. Victoria Price, near Scottsboro, in March, 1931.

Patterson, Norris Discard Leibowitz

Advertiser

11-15-34

Heywood Patterson and Clarence Norris, negroes in the Scottsboro case under sentence of death in Kilby Prison pending their appeals to the United States Supreme Court have changed their counsel again, Warden George F. Walls, said yesterday.

Montgomery

Adv.

The negroes, Warden Walls said, gave Irving Schwartz, of New York, and Atty. Cooper, of Birmingham, as representatives of the International Labor Defense League, full authority to represent them and renounced Samuel Leibowitz, of New York, as their counsel.

Prior to this time, it is understood, Patterson had stood firm upon his selection of the ILD, but Norris has chosen Leibowitz.

Schwartz, who was registered at the Jefferson Davis Hotel checked out yesterday and was reported to have gone to Birmingham.

CONTINUANCE GRANTED TO DOOMED NEGROES

Post

Execution Date For Scottsboro Pair Reset For Feb. 8

11-16-34

By United Press.

MONTGOMERY, Nov. 15.—The supreme court today postponed the execution of Heywood Patterson and Clarence Norris, convicted in the Scottsboro attack case, from Dec. 7 until Feb. 8.

Birmingham

The postponement was ordered at request of Osborne Frankel, New York attorney handling the appeal of the condemned negroes before the U. S. supreme court. He notified the state tribunal that the appeal could not be perfected by Dec. 7.

Lynchings-1934
Legal Punishment for Rape.

Alabama

4696

MONTGOMERY, ALA.
ADVERTISER
AUG 28

Scottsboro Defense Plea To Court For Special Sitting On Case Denied

A majority of the justices of the Alabama Supreme Court, now in recess, following a conference at the Capitol yesterday denied request of defense counsel for the holding of a special term of the court for the purpose of ruling on applications for rehearing in the cases of Heywood Patterson and Clarence Norris, two of the seven negro "Scottsboro case" defendants.

The action taken was on the ground that there is no occasion for calling a special session of the court to pass on the applications, and that the exegencies of the situation do not demand or require it. Ruling on the rehearing applications will, therefore, have to await the reconvening of the court in regular session on Oct. 1.

Request for the special convening of the State's highest tribunal was made by attorneys for the two negroes so as to avoid delay in the taking of appeals to the U. S. Supreme Court in the event rehearings were denied. No objection was made to the proposal by Atty. Gen. Knight, who has prosecuted these two and other Scottsboro negroes, as it is his desire that they all be finally disposed of before expiration next January of his term of office.

Patterson appealed to the Alabama Supreme Court from his third, and Norris from his second conviction in the Morgan Circuit Court, of criminally assaulting two young white women near Scottsboro in March, 1931. Both negroes were sentenced to death. Later, the Supreme Court, affirming the trial court's judgments, set Friday, Aug. 31, as the date for execution of the condemned.

Applications for rehearing were thereafter filed by defense counsel, automatically suspending carrying out of the death sentences until these applications were ruled on. While they were still pending the Supreme Court, in accordance with statutory provision, recessed until Oct. 1.

The other five defendants will not be placed on trial, it is understood, until the cases of Patterson and Norris have been finally disposed of.

Amsterdam News
9-8-34
New York N.Y.

Samuel S. Leibowitz

WHILE ALABAMA'S Supreme Court sets the stage for a new act in the Scottsboro case drama, Samuel S. Leibowitz, chief defense counsel for these nine youths whose adversities symbolize the South's legal oppression of an entire race, has come in recently for no small measure of publicizing—much of it unfavorable. Mr. Leibowitz's conduct of the celebrated struggle to free the youths evoked a recent bitter attack from the pen of George S. Schuyler in the American Spectator. The Amsterdam News has answered—and we believe effectively—Mr. Schuyler's proclivity for pleasing the white folk with his sensational and ill-advised praise of the Dixie Bourbons for the patience and tolerance in not staging a lynching bee with the Scottsboro boys as the central attraction. Today, when colored and white people who revere justice as no theory subject to bias, inane conventions gird themselves anew for the Scottsboro struggle, it is not amiss to glance at the man Leibowitz.

In some quarters there has risen a group which scoffs at the defense counsel, holding that he was moved to accept the Scottsboro charge by a desire to pose as a humanitarian after succeeding locally as a criminal lawyer. "Where," they ask, "was his interest in Negroes and in social justice before he saw an opportunity to win national glory on the legal battlefields in Alabama?"

That question is not difficult to answer. Samuel S. Leibowitz was born in Jassy, Rumania, of orthodox Jewish parents. As a Jew he knew the meaning of prejudice. In 1895 anti-Semitism was so rampant in Rumania that Jews were denied the vote and were refused the right to own rural lands, although the government never forgot to send around the tax collectors and exacted military service. Leibowitz's parents left their native Rumania in 1897 because of the lot of their race, coming to New York.

One of the first cases undertaken by young Leibowitz after his graduation from law school in 1915 was the defense of the son of George Wibecan of Brooklyn, former grand exalted ruler of the Elks. The youth was charged with disorderly conduct because he demanded his rights after a Jewish bath-house owner at Coney Island refused to admit him because of his race. He succeeded only in getting a suspended sentence for Wibecan.

Today, nearly two decades later, Leibowitz is successful. He accepted no remuneration for the Scottsboro case because he was besieged with clients ready to pay fees of $10,000 upward before the great social drama began unfolding in Alabama. Last week the famous lawyer told The Amsterdam News:

Whether or not the boys had a fair trial, whether the defense filed its briefs too early or too late, whether or not prejudice was introduced at the hearings—these things are but side issues. The fundamental fact is that Negroes, as American citizens, were denied their rights guaranteed under the constitution when they were not allowed to sit on that Alabama jury—and that is the bulwark upon which rests the fate of nine boys, the Negro in this country, and the future of the country itself. And because of this, I tell you:

"They won't die."

Samuel S. Leibowitz still stands ready to fight. He does not care how long it takes. What man can do more for human liberty?

Journal and Guide
9-15-34
Norfolk Va.

The Result Of Hurried Justice Often Is Injustice

IN DISCUSSING the much-speculated-about case of MELVIN McLAURIN, awaiting an electric chair death in North Carolina on a conviction of attacking a white girl who hitch-hiked a ride with him, along with her sister, the *Greensboro Daily News* quotes the defense attorney as saying: "Certain matters were revealed *after trial* (our italics) through the county physician's office in collaboration with the state laboratory which might have led to a different verdict of the jury."

That interests us—that "certain matters." We don't like its vagueness when it is so definitely indicated that it had life-and-death importance for McLAURIN. It will be recalled how our staff correspondent who covered the Scottsboro case emphasized the importance of physician's testimony at the Decatur trial. The only conceivable thing the county physician and state attorney could have offered was scientific evidence, or lack of it, indicating a criminal attack.

In the Scottsboro case they continue to find the boys guilty despite the testimony of the Scottsboro doctor who examined the girls within an hour after they were "attacked" and flatly declared that the medical evidence did not back up their charge. Other medical men support his claim on the basis of a study of his findings.

We are not going to be vague, because if those in authority and disseminators of information—newspapers—would strip ugly cases like this of their vagueness, juries would be more likely to render just verdicts simply because an informed public opinion would be less hostile to just verdicts.

The Scottsboro white doctor, born and educated in Alabama, said he had difficulty in finding evidence indicating intimate relations with men in the Alabama white girls' vital organs. What he did find was immotile semen. To be immotile—lifeless—it had to be around twelve or more hours old or to have come into contact with some foreign substance or antiseptic. Yet the girls claimed each was attacked by about six of the accused boys just before they were examined. A jury ordinarily would not have to hear any more evidence before making up its mind.

In the Scottsboro case this evidence supported the defense claim that not only were the nine accused youths innocent, but that *nobody had* attacked VICTORIA PRICE and RUBY BATES. LESTER CARTER, RUBY BATES' boy friend, and RUBY BATES herself gave ample explanation of the source of the immotile semen in their sensational testimony repudiating the charges against the innocent colored boys at the second trial.

* * * *

This is a long way from McLAURIN and his case in North Carolina, and yet it isn't. What we suspect is that "the county physician in collaboration with the state laboratory" found very much the same thing that Dr. BRIDGES—the Scottsboro doctor—found on examining the complainants in Alabama. We'd like to know definitely.

So many men—not only men wrongly accused instead of the actually guilty party, but men accused of a crime of which nobody is guilty—are dying legally or at the hands of mobs in cases of this kind that we think the day is coming—and it should—when it will be necessary for indisputable medical evidence to be offered in support of attack charges.

If often nobody is guilty of attacking the complainants, you ask, what motive can women have in lodging such charges? Well, the Scottsboro girls, traveling across state lines with men of their race, feared prosecution on Mann Act or similar charges. They took the easiest way out of their difficulty. What the motive was in McLAURIN'S case in North Carolina isn't known.

What is known is that medical evidence of a very indisputable kind has been adduced in McLAURIN'S case, after trial. This man deserves a chance. Admittedly, he had little, if any, to prove his innocence up to and during his concluded trial. Financially unable to appeal, the man's fate rests now with the governor of the state. He should probe it thoroughly.

NEGRO SNATCHED FROM DEATH CHAIR

Last Minute Reprieve Saves Tom Brown Till Oct. 12

Advertiser

9-14-34

At the request of defense counsel who asked for further time to obtain facts he claims will show the innocence of the condemned, and of the trial judge and sheriff for a stay of execution pending submission of new evidence, Gov. Miller yesterday granted a reprieve until Oct. 12 to Tom Brown, Morgan County negro who was to have been electrocuted early this morning at Kilby Prison for criminally assaulting a white woman near Decatur last Summer.

The first request for a reprieve came in a telegram from J. N. Powell, Hartselle attorney, who defended Brown. The message said: "Request you stay execution of Tom Brown 30 days to get facts to show his innocence." The Governor immediately telegraphed Mr. Powell as follows: "Your wire re Tom Brown. Commutation hearing has been held. You were present representing Brown. You give now no evidence of new testimony. Unless request is made by trial judge and sheriff I feel that I should not stay execution."

Montgomery Ala

Some time later the following message was received by the Chief Executive from Circuit Judge James E. Horton and Sheriff A. W. Davis, of Morgan County: "We request stay of execution for Tom Brown 30 days pending new evidence." It was after this telegram was received that the Governor issued the reprieve order, notice of his action being wired promptly to Mr. Powell, Judge Horton and Sheriff Davis.

At the same time, Warden George P. Walls at Kilby, was notified of the stay of execution and a formal written order was delivered to him within a short time by W. F. Covington, Jr., the Governor's recording secretary.

The welcome tidings that he had at least 30 days more to live, reached Brown just as he was about to be removed from the block of cells reserved for condemned prisoners, to the large cell only a few steps removed from the entrance to the execution chamber where the electric chair is located. The hair had been shaved from the back of the negro's head in readiness for the electrode contained in the helmet used in electrocution, and the left leg of his trousers had been ripped to the knee for contact with the other electrode.

Apparently overcome by word of the reprieve given him, the negro remained speechless for a moment and then suddenly cried out, "Thank you, suh. Thank you. The Lord knows I'm not guilty.

DOOMED NEGRO APPEALS FOR STAY IN EXECUTION

Post

Court Action Taken With Chair Only Hours Away

9-13-34

MONTGOMERY, Sept. 13.—(Special.)—J. N. Powell, of Hartselle, attorney for Tom Brown Morgan county negro who is scheduled to die in the electric chair at midnight tonight for attacking a Decatur white woman today filed a plea for a stay of execution with Circuit Judge Leon McCord. Judge McCord was to rule on the stay later today.

Powell contends that a member of the pardon board was illegally represented at a clemency hearing for the negro.

Negro Will Die In Chair Tonight

Advertiser

9-13-34

Immediately after midnight tonight, Tom Brown, Morgan County negro will be executed in the electric chair at Kilby Prison, for criminally assaulting a white woman near the city of Decatur last Summer. The State Board of Pardons unanimously declined to recommend commutation in the case, and Gov. Miller some time ago ordered that the sentence imposed by the Morgan Circuit Court following Brown's conviction, be carried out.

Though it was reported at the capitol yesterday that a last minute effort might be made on behalf of the condemned, to secure a stay of execution on the ground that the State Auditor, one of the three members of the Pardon Board designated his chief clerk to act for him at hearing of the clemency plea in the case, the Auditor being out of the city on business—it was believed such an effort would prove futile. This belief was based upon the fact that the Pardon Board's recommendation is not binding on the Governor in any case, but is advisory only.

Brown pleaded not guilty, claiming an alibi. He was positively identified, however, by the victim of the attack, on whose description officers arrested him.

Montgomery Ala

DECATUR NEGRO TO DIE FOR ASSAULT

Post

Clemency Plea Is Denied By Governor Miller

9-13-34

By United Press.

MONTGOMERY, Sept 13.—Thomas Brown, Decatur negro, is scheduled to die in the electric chair at Kilby prison tonight for an alleged attack on a Decatur white woman.

Birmingham Ala

In a clemency hearing before Governor Miller, Brown steadfastly denied his guilt, claiming he was in another part of town at the time of the crime.

Governor Miller, citinng the fact that Brown ran as officers approached to arrest him and remarked that the police were looking for him, said there was little doubt as to his guilt and denied his application for clemency.

Huntsville Ala,
Register
September 1 1934

The Daily Register views with approval the decision of the Alabama supreme court on the plea of Haywood Patterson and Clarence Norris, convicted negroes in the "Scottsboro Case", for a re-hearing. They have been convicted by a jury which their attorneys could find no fault with, and having no new evidence to submit we can think of no valid reason why the supreme court should call a special session to rule on the application for a re-hearing, when the regular term is scheduled to open the first of next month. We shall be glad when these cases are settled once and for all.

MONTGOMERY, ALA.
JOURNAL & TIMES

SEP 10 1934

Writes Report on Jackson Case

Pete B. Jarman, Jr., a member of the state pardon board, has made a lengthy study of the case of Frank Jackson, a Montgomery negro sentenced to die for an attack on a young couple near the edge of the city, and his clemency recommendation is made in a two-page report in which he reviews each angle of the case.

The report is a departure from the customary manner of acting on such cases and segregates the evidence into four classifications: First, the identification by the offended parties; second, the pistol found in the negro's home; third, the confession of Jackson's alleged accomplice, George Meadows; and fourth, the fact that he was frequently seen with Meadows by one of the witnesses.

After analyzing each point, Jarman gives his reaction as follows:

"There could scarcely have been a more horrible crime. If Frank Jackson participated in it in anyway the sentence should be executed. However, consideration of the circumstances engenders serious doubt in my mind that he had anything to do with or knew anything about it. He is entitled to the benefit of the doubt and I recommend that this sentence be commuted to life imprisonment."

Pinks Resort to Bribery

Telegraph

Interference in the celebrated Scottsboro case by a northern organization with communistic tendencies has been deeply resented in Alabama, and indeed throughout the South, ever since a number of Negroes were put on trial for an alleged criminal assault, said to have been committed in a railway train in that state.

One of the women who had sworn that she was a victim of the attack later changed her testimony, but Mrs. Victoria Price, the state's principal witness, still adhered to her story.

Within recent weeks efforts have been made to bribe her, first with $500 and later with $1,000, to change her testimony, which of course would have brought great confusion into this case, which has been trumpeted around the world.

10-3-34

When J. W. Pearson, of Birmingham, was arrested for having sought to arrange the bribe he was in an automobile with Mrs. Price, on the way to Nashville to get the money. After his arrest he made an affidavit charging that he was merely a go-between and that the principals were Daniel Swift, a New York attorney, and Sol Kone, also of New York. Swift and Kone were soon taken into custody at a Nashville hotel and on leaving the automobile at the county jail, $1,500 in money was left in the car, which both men refused to claim.

Resentment against this interference in the Scottsboro case by New York attorneys rested on the fact, first, that there are plenty of lawyers in Alabama and in any other state of the South who would have given their best professional services, free of cost, under appointment by the court, if the Negroes were unable to employ counsel. There would have been less feeling if the New York organization, after deciding to enter the case and employ counsel, had selected an attorney from the South. As a matter of fact, a Chattanooga lawyer was originally employed by a New York defense organization of slightly better standing than the one which later horned in on the case and dismissed the Chattanooga attorney.

In the various trials of the defendant the New York attorney who was leading counsel made himself exceedingly obnoxious and stirred up a great deal of racial antagonism.

The mother of one of the defendants in this case has had her expenses paid while she toured Europe, inflaming the minds of all who would hear her against conditions in the South and seeking to convey the impression that her son and the other defendants were being railroaded to the gallows through race prejudice. There is every reason to believe that the whole setup has been merely a matter of communistic propaganda.

It was bad enough when a tactless lawyer from New York was sent to Alabama to secure headlines rather than justice, but now that apparently the New York defense of these Negroes has resorted to bribery in order to obstruct justice, indignation throughout the South will be all the more intense.

Not a single one of the defendants has paid the penalty of his alleged crime and all have had every resource of the courts to establish their innocence. It would have been equally true if Southern lawyers, from the first, had been employed on this case. In the meantime the resort to bribery obviously nullifies the claim of the defense that the Negroes were not guilty of the charge.

Lynchings-1934
Legal Punishment for Rape.

Alabama

4697

"They Shall Not Die!" Cry of Thousands On May Day, Thrills Scottsboro Mothers

This is the first part of an interview with five of the mothers of the nine Scottsboro boys, by Otto Hall. The second part of this interview will be published in Monday's Daily Worker.

These five mothers are going to Washington on May 13, Mothers Day, to see the President, and demand from him the immediate freedom of the nine boys who are being mistreated in the Birmingham jail, and who have been imprisoned for nearly three years, despite overwhelming proof of their innocence. A send-off meeting will be held Friday night, May 11, in St. Nicholas Arena.

Daily Worker 5-5-34

By OTTO HALL

"I'm going to Washington to see the President about my boy," said Mother Ida Norris, when the writer asked her about her intended trip to Washington on Mothers' Day.

N.Y.

"Do you know," she said, "that me and my boy Clarence were born in Warm Springs, Georgia, where the President lives in the winter time? Well, we're going to find out what kind of a deal Mr. Roosevelt gives his home town folks," she said, very determinedly.

All five of these mothers were born down in "Dear old Georgia," where the "Honeysuckles Bloom" and "Everything is Peaches," according to the song writers. Poets can sing, novelists can spin romantic yarns, about southern belles, gallant colonels, Negroes singing in the cotton and such tripe, but to see the careworn faces and toil-ridden hands of these mothers, and to hear their stories of a life of hard work and privation, one gets a real picture of that feudal hell, known as the "sunny" South. This is the South stripped of its halo of romance and exposed as one of the most benighted, disease-ridden, poverty-stricken sections of this great United States. Where the Bourbon rulers have made both Negroes and "poor writes" their beasts of burden.

Encouraged by May Day

I found the mothers still talking about the great May Day demonstration, in which they participated, and they told me how encouraged they felt when they heard the tens of thousands of workers pass Union Square shouting: "The Scottsboro boys shall not die." They told me that they know that the International Labor Defense, which has the support of all those workers, will save their boys.

The stories of these mothers, which in many respects are similar, give an accurate picture of the oppression and enslavement of the Negro nation in the southern "Black Belt." Nearly all of them came from large families and have had to toil on plantations as sharecroppers or plantation "hands" and went to work at an age when children in more fortunate circumstances were still in nurseries. The average age of these mothers when they "set out to chop cotton" was seven years. Mother Viola Montgomery says she was about six years old when she started to chop cotton on the plantation of George Felkner, who was the richest plantation owner in Monroe County, Ga., where she was born. She said that she was supposed to have been paid the "liberal" sum of 25c a day for her work at that time, but never saw any money. The "Colonel" said it all went for her "keep." After she was grown up, she chopped cotton for 65c a day.

Mother Montgomery was born on this plantation 44 years ago and was one of a family of seven girls. The father, a plantation laborer, died when she was very small and all of them were forced to work in the fields from the time they could barely toddle. She married when 15, thinking to escape this slavery, but found that instead of escaping so much toil she had to work even harder than before. She began to havve children so fast, she said, that it looked like she hardly got through having one, than she was "big" with another. She was the mother of six, only three of whom are still living. When her boy Olin, who is now in prison, was about four weeks old her husband got into trouble and was sent to the chain gang for a term of years, leaving her to take care of the children. Her oldest daughter died from neglect because she had to toil in the field and couldn't give her proper care. Because she had to go out and work a few days after Olin was born, she has been in bad health ever since. This is the life of the average Negro toiler in the South.

Olin Supports Family

Her oldest boy married and there was nobody to help the family but Olin, who worked at a boarding house for $3 a week. He told his mother that he was tired of working there and not getting anything for it so he was going to Chattanooga to see if he couldn't earn more money. Mother Montgomery says that she never saw him any more until she saw him in Kilby prison.

Mother Norris, the President's fellow-townswoman, does not know her age but thinks that she is around 45 or 46 years old. She is the daughter of a sharecropper and has worked since she was seven years old.

She says it seemed as though their family could never get out of debt. The harder they worked, the more they owed. She married at 17, thinking that she would have an easier life but like the others, found she was taking on more trouble and work. She is the mother of 10 children, eight of whom are living and two are dead. She has been a widow for 10 years. She left Warm Springs to get away from the plantation and moved to Moline, Ga., her present home.

She took in washing and all of her children had to go to work. Her boy, Clarence Norris, now in prison, was working in a saw-mill for 50 cents a day. He also took a job on a peach farm, picking peaches, but the pay was so small, that he decided to give it up. He told her that he was going away to the North where he could make more money and be better able to take care of her. He said that he "wasn't going to follow nobody's mules no more." He went to Atlanta where he caught the train to Chattanooga. He never met the other boys until he got on the freight train. She says that she did not see him any more until she saw him in prison.

Scottsboro Mothers at Communist Meeting

On the platform at the Madison Square Garden Tuesday night. Left to right: Ida Norris, Viola Montgomery, Ruby Bates, Mamie Williams. Janie Patterson. Josephine Powell, the other mother, is not in the photo.

Lynchings-1934
Legal Punishment for Rape.

Alabama

4697

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Daily W. 5-5-34

By OTTO HALL

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Daily Worker N.Y.

"Do you know," she said, "that me and my boy Clarence were born in Warm Springs, Georgia, where the President lives in the winter time? Well, we're going to find out what kind of a deal Mr. Roosevelt gives his home town folks," she said, very determinedly.

All five of these mothers were born down in "Dear old Georgia," where the "Honeysuckles Bloom" and "Everything is Peaches," according to the song writers. Poets can sing, novelists can spin romantic yarns, about southern belles, gallant colonels, Negroes singing in the cotton and such tripe, but to see the careworn faces and toil-ridden hands of these mothers, and to hear their stories of a life of hard work and privation, one gets a real picture of that feudal hell, known as the "sunny" South. This is the South stripped of its halo of romance and exposed as one of the most benighted, disease-ridden, poverty-stricken sections of this great United States. Where the Bourbon rulers have made both Negroes and "poor writes" their beasts of burden.

Encouraged by May Day

I found the mothers still talking about the great May Day demonstration, in which they participated, and they told me how encouraged they felt when they heard the tens of thousands of workers pass Union Square shouting: "The Scottsboro boys shall not die." They told me that they know that the International Labor Defense, which has the support of all those workers, will save their boys.

The stories of these mothers, which in many respects are similar, give an accurate picture of the oppression and enslavement of the Negro nation in the southern "Black Belt." Nearly all of them came from large families and have had to toil on plantations as sharecroppers or plantation "hands" and went to work at an age when children in more fortunate circumstances were still in nurseries. The average age of these mothers when they "set out to chop cotton" was seven years. Mother Viola Montgomery says she was about six years old when she started to chop cotton on the plantation of George Felkner, who was the richest plantation owner in Monroe County, Ga., where she was born. She said that she was supposed to have been paid the "liberal" sum of 25c a day for her work at that time, but never saw any money. The "Colonel" said it all went for her "keep." After she was grown up, she chopped cotton for 65c a day.

Mother Montgomery was born on this plantation 44 years ago and was one of a family of seven girls. The father, a plantation laborer, died when she was very small and all of them were forced to work in the fields from the time they could barely toddle. She married when 15, thinking to escape this slavery, but found that instead of escaping so much toil she had to work even harder than before. She began to havve children so fast, she said, that it looked like she hardly got through having one, than she was "big" with another. She was the mother of six, only three of whom are still living. When her boy Olin, who is now in prison, was about four weeks old her husband got into trouble and was sent to the chain gang for a term of years, leaving her to take care of the children. Her oldest daughter died from neglect because she had to toil in the field and couldn't give her proper care. Because she had to go out and work a few days after Olin was born, she has been in bad health ever since. This is the life of the average Negro toiler in the South.

Olin Supports Family

Her oldest boy married and there was nobody to help the family but Olin, who worked at a boarding house for $3 a week. He told his mother that he was tired of working there and not getting anything for it so he was going to Chattanooga to see if he couldn't earn more money. Mother Montgomery says that she never saw him any more until she saw him in Kilby prison.

Mother Norris, the President's fellow-townswoman, does not know her age but thinks that she is around 45 or 46 years old. She is the daughter of a sharecropper and has worked since she was seven years old.

She says it seemed as though their family could never get out of debt. The harder they worked, the more they owed. She married at 17, thinking that she would have an easier life but like the others, found she was taking on more trouble and work. She is the mother of 10 children, eight of whom are living and two are dead. She has been a widow for 10 years. She left Warm Springs to get away from the plantation and moved to Moline, Ga., her present home.

She took in washing and all of her children had to go to work. Her boy, Clarence Norris, now in prison, was working in a saw-mill for 50 cents a day. He also took a job on a peach farm, picking peaches, but the pay was so small, that he decided to give it up. He told her that he was going away to the North where he could make more money and be better able to take care of her. He said that he "wasn't going to follow nobody's mules no more." He went to Atlanta where he caught the train to Chattanooga. He never met the other boys until he got on the freight train. She says that she did not see him any more until she saw him in prison.

Scottsboro Mothers at Communist Meeting

On the platform at the Madison Square Garden Tuesday night. Left to right: Ida Norris, Viola Montgomery, Ruby Bates, Mamie Williams, Janie Patterson. Josephine Powell, the other mother, is not in the photo.

Lynchings-1934
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Legal Punishment for Rape.
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Alabama

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"They Shall Not Die!" Cry of Thousands On May Day, Thrills Scottsboro Mothers

This is the first part of an interview with five of the mothers of the nine Scottsboro boys, by Otto Hall. The second part of this interview will be published in Monday's Daily Worker.

These five mothers are going to Washington on May 13, Mothers Day, to see the President, and demand from him the immediate freedom of the nine boys who are being mistreated in the Birmingham jail, and who have been imprisoned for nearly three years, despite overwhelming proof of their innocence. A send-off meeting will be held Friday night, May 11, in St. Nicholas Arena.

Daily W. 5-5-34

By OTTO HALL

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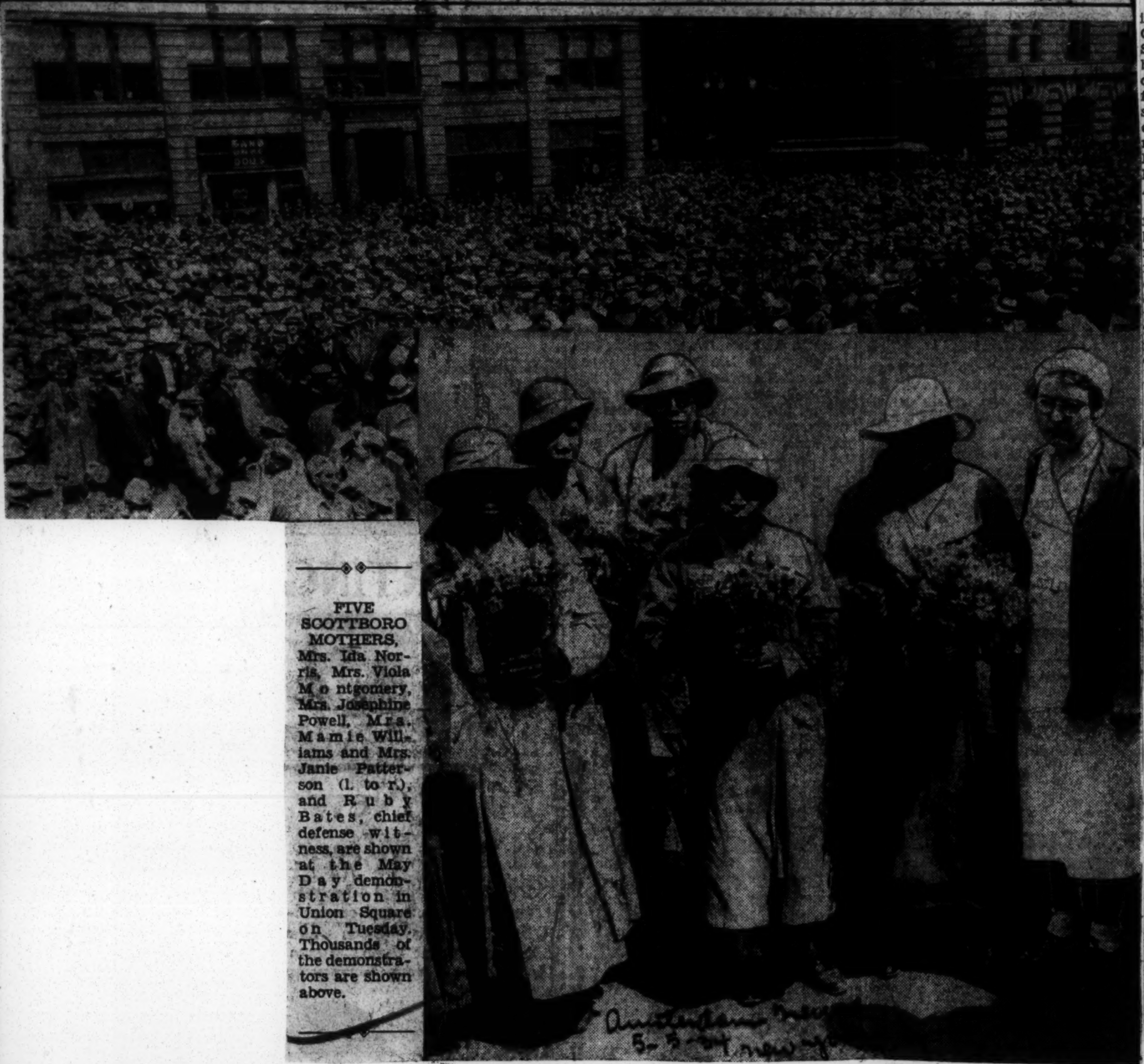
Scottsboro Mothers Observe May Day



FIVE SCOTTBORO MOTHERS, Mrs. Ida Norris, Mrs. Viola Montgomery, Mrs. Josephine Powell, Mrs. Mamie Williams and Mrs. Janie Patterson (l. to r.), and Ruby Bates, chief defense witness, are shown at the May Day demonstration in Union Square on Tuesday. Thousands of the demonstrators are shown above.

Amsterdam News
5-5-34 New York

Dec. 7 Fixed For Death Of Two Scottsboro Negroes

Again upholding trial court judgments in the cases of Haywood Patterson and Clarence Norris, two of the seven negro Scottsboro case defendants, the Alabama Supreme Court in decisions rendered yesterday, overruling applications for rehearing filed by defense counsel set Friday, Dec. 7, for execution of the death sentences imposed on the two negroes following their conviction in Morgan County, of criminally assaulting Mrs. Victoria Price, near Paint Rock, Alabama early in 1931.

Advertiser
10-5-34
Montgomery, Ala.

Yesterday's decisions marked the fourth occasion upon which the Alabama Supreme Court has sustained judgments of conviction of the two negroes named. They were first tried, with seven co-defendants, before the Circuit Court of Jackson County where the crime for which they were indicted, was committed. The trials resulted in convictions for all nine accused negroes, two of whom, however, were later adjudged to be juveniles. Appeals were taken to the Alabama Supreme Court, which affirmed the judgments in all cases with the exception of those held to be juveniles, and set a new date for execution of the death sentences.

Applications for rehearing were promptly filed with the State Supreme Court, and when they were subsequently overruled, counsel for the defense took appeals to the U. S. Supreme Court which reversed the judgments of conviction and remanded the cases for new trials. A change of venue was thereafter obtained to Morgan County. Patterson was first tried and convicted a second time, but the verdict was later set aside by the trial judge. A third trial ensued. Patterson was for the third time convicted. Norris then went to trial and was found guilty. Both were sentenced to death.

Their attorneys again appealed to the Alabama Supreme Court, which sustaining trial court action in the cases for the third time, affirmed the judgments: Just before the high court recessed for the Summer, applications for rehearing were submitted. Yesterday these applications were overruled by the Supreme Court, which reconvened last Monday.

At the time these rehearing applications were filed, attorneys for the negroes made it known that if the high court's action should be adverse to their clients, the cases would again be appealed to the Supreme Court of the United States. Advices from New York last night, announced that defense lawyers would proceed at once to present appeals to that tribunal.

Patterson and Norris are at Kilby Prison. The five other defendants are confined in the Jefferson County jail at Birmingham